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4 'young guns' sign impeach complaint

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Pat Robertson calls for assassination of Venezuelan leader

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2bU's dream of Workshop for Young Journalists comes true

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Where, when of the 'Cry' still a puzzle 109 years after

By DJ Yap

THE PHILIPPINE Revolution against Spain was heralded by Andres Bonifacio gathering together a small band of men in Pugad Lawin 109 years ago yesterday.

They took out their *cedulas* (residence certificates) and tore the documents to shreds,

WHERE/ A22

Erap: I didn't say GMA to leave (Palace) in stroller

By Nelson F. Flores and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT WASN'T me, it was a text joke.

Detained ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday denied saying that

ERAP/ A22

NOT AN ORIGINAL ERAPTION!

SCENES from the House's "long cut to nowhere (above and right):" Exchanging smiles, not diatribes, proimpeachment Representatives Etta Rosales, Mario Aguja and Riza Baraquel hand out roses (peach, of course) to the antis like Rep. Prospero Pichay. JOAN BONDOC

NOSEDIVE. A soldier sniffs under the seats of the Batasan session hall even as he himself is being checked out by his own bomb-sniffing ward. Security was *that* tight. JOAN BONDOC

HAND SIGNALS. House Speaker Jose de Venecia is not about to get an upper cut from Rep. Satur Ocampo. Their winning smiles appear to tell a story contrary to what's happening on the ground. REUTERS

'Jueteng' gets makeover

Bingo Combo to replace illegal numbers racket

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

"JUETENG" will be history by the Malacañang-imposed deadline of Sept. 15 but the Arroyo administration will reintroduce it as "Bingo Combo," Archbishop Oscar Cruz said yesterday.

Citing information from his Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, which has a network of informants working with its 62 chapters nationwide, Cruz said Bingo Combo would be launched by the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

"It will be the same dog with a different collar," the Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop told the INQUIRER. "To me, this is not only deceptive, it is also disgusting."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson also said jueteng would be replaced by Bingo Combo.

"[Jueteng] will merely take a new form: Bingo Combo, where the poor will still be exploited minus 20 percent for Pagcor, 80 percent for operators," Pimentel said.

Lacson said that under the new scheme, operators would remit 20 percent to Pagcor and retain the 80 percent, with the mayors "taking a slice."

"They will still squeeze money from the bettors, most of whom are poor, and redistribute the same to the rich mayors and operators. It's hooded Robin sans conscience," Lacson said, adding:

"Of course they will argue that its operation is different from jueteng, but they cannot fool the

JUETENG/ A4

House opts for 'longer route to nowhere'

By Michael Lim Ubac

CHOOSING what a lawmaker described as a "longer route to nowhere," the House justice committee yesterday handed the opposition its first setback in its efforts to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly stealing last year's election.

Voting 54-24 with three abstentions, the committee chaired by Rep. Simeon Datumanong decided there were "prejudicial questions" that precluded its members from immediately hearing the three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

"They said it's a shortcut but it's actually a longer route to nowhere," Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, impeachment team spokesperson, said, describing the situation that the committee had found itself in as a "legal abyss."

Cayetano said the fate of the impeachment case appeared bleak. He said it was apparent that the committee would rather debate "till kingdom come" on contentious constitutional issues instead of complying with its duty to determine the complaints' form and substance.

Enunciating the sentiment of the majority, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman hailed the vote—the first taken by the committee since it started hearings the other week—as the "victory of the rule of law" and a "triumph of the Constitution."

"It was not a step back but a step forward in the right direction of the impeachment process. Nobody lost in the voting. It was a victory for the rule of law," said Lagman, committee vice chair.

Contrary to Cayetano's prognosis, Lagman said tackling the seven prejudicial, or constitutional questions, "provides the road

HOUSE/ A8

Fat pork retained by Palace in '06 budget

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has kept the pork barrel funds of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the proposed P1.051-trillion budget for 2006.

The proposed budget is 16 percent higher than this year's outlay of P907 billion.

Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos said the government had allocated in the proposed budget P40 million for each member of the House and P120 million for each senator under the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), or "the same as this year's levels."

The pork barrel is used by legislators for their pet projects and is a known source of kickbacks.

The government has left the pork barrel untouched in the proposed budget although President Macapagal-Arroyo has said the country is facing not one but two crises—the fiscal deficit and the surging crude oil prices in the world market.

Last year, Ms Arroyo slashed the pork barrel allocations for this year of members of the House (originally P70 million each) and senators (originally P200 million each) as part of cost-cutting measures to ease the fiscal crisis.

FAT/ A8

JIMMY A. DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

THE NEW GAME IN TOWN for the folk in Jones, Isabela, is bingo—at least while "jueteng" operations are suspended, or so it is reported.

₱5-B road fund splits GMA allies in House

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ALLOCATION of a whopping P5.1-billion for road repairs this year is threatening to split President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in Congress and torpedo Malacañang's efforts to quash moves to impeach her, congressional sources reported yesterday.

The fallout continues despite the President's suspension of fund releases that was announced on Monday without explanation.

The opposition has blasted the Road Users' Tax (RUT) fund releases as "lopsided."

The controversy over RUT sharing has brought to fore the icy relations between the Lakas and Kampi parties, delaying a merger ordered by Ms Arroyo last month to consolidate her forces in Congress in preparation for the impeachment battle.

Administration allies are quibbling over why lawmakers belonging to Kampi, Ms Arroyo's political party, are reportedly getting a bigger slice of the pie than their Lakas counterparts.

A government source who requested anonymity said some Lakas members were furious when they found out that Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Kampi chair, and his brother, Road Board Executive Director Rodolfo Puno, had allegedly conspired to funnel the lion's share of the road funds

P5-B ROAD/ A8

Drilon, Lacson shoot down Bro. Mike's 60-40 coalition plan

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE President Franklin Drilon and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson have turned down Bro. Mike Velarde's proposal for them to reconcile with President Macapagal-Arroyo and join a coalition government.

Velarde said Monday that the President was open to his proposal for a coalition government in which opposition parties would get 60 percent of the Cabinet posts and for the Constitution to be amended to pave the way for the holding of general elections in 2007.

Lacson confirmed he was offered the post of interior secretary.

"The effort of Brother Mike is laudable but, unfortunately, the political divisions in the country are so deep that it is a useless exercise," said Drilon, head of a faction of the Liberal Party which is demanding the President's resignation.

Ms Arroyo is accused of stealing last year's presidential election and of using payoffs from gambling lords to fund the campaign. She has denied the allegations.

Drilon said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's rejection of the Velarde proposal made it academic. "Let's face it. With Malacañang's rejection, it doesn't stand a Chinaman's chance."

Bunye yesterday said that what the country needed "is not a political coalition but an earnest principled working relationship with the opposition that will truly serve the national interest in this time of looming crisis."

Bunye said "the administration is solid, strong and able to effectively carry out its programs."

Velarde, leader of El Shaddai, a Catholic charismatic group, met separately with Lacson and Drilon last week and presented to them his proposal to end the worst political crisis faced by Ms Arroyo.

Lacson made a counterproposal—that Ms Arroyo call a snap election before the end of the year.

He said that since Ms Arroyo

DRILON/ A22

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/24/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

DILG steps into Cavite standoff

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday decided to intervene to resolve the one-week standoff in the province of Cavite which has hampered operations at the provincial capitol.

The DILG has invited suspended Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi and Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla, the acting Cavite governor, to a dialogue today to come up with a resolution to the current stalemate.

The invitations to both provincial officials were sent by DILG director in Calabarzon Leonilo Lariosa, who said the meeting "aims to resolve the lingering issue regarding the implementation of the order of the Office of the Ombudsman."

The meeting is set at 10 a.m. in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City, the regional headquarters of the Philippine National Police in Calabarzon.

The police have so far kept its hands off the controversy but are readying for a prolonged standoff.

"We are neutral in this activity," PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao declared.

'Passions could rise'

But Lomibao admitted that trouble could erupt anytime. "Passions could rise, and that could lead to trouble or violence, and the PNP would like to prevent that," the PNP chief said.

Maliksi said he was willing to go to the meeting if his schedule would allow it. "There is no problem about it," he said.

Remula said he would attend the meeting "I will definitely attend that meeting. I never closed my door to reconciliation ... What we need now is a legal solution, not a political solution, to this legal problem," he told the INQUIRER.

The standoff at the provincial capitol ensued after Maliksi defied the suspension order and holed up at the provincial capitol which was barricaded by his supporters.

But Interior Undersecretary Melchor Rosales, DILG spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that Remulla is in control of the situation and is able to discharge his functions as acting governor.

"There is no problem," Rosales said in a telephone interview.

"We've talked with acting Governor Remulla and he told us that he is able to discharge his functions," Rosales added.

The Ombudsman slapped a six-month preventive suspension on Maliksi last week in connection with the alleged spurious purchase of P7.5 million worth of rice last year.

Defiant governor

Maliksi has defied the order, calling it a "patently illegal" one and politically motivated. Since Tuesday, he and hordes of his supporters have holed themselves up inside the capitol.

When asked if he would give way to Remulla if the DILG asked him to, Maliksi said he would not step down, adding that he did not even follow the Ombudsman.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

3 NLRC execs face raps for ignorance of law

By Nelson F. Flores

THREE National Labor Relations commissioners were charged with "gross ignorance of the law" before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Charged were Commissioners Raul Aquino, Proculo Sarmen and Romeo Co for reversing a 2003 NLRC decision that had reportedly become final.

The charges were filed by Carmelo Allanic, Rosita Chingkoe and Rogelio Salas, who claimed the commissioners should be held liable.

Records showed that complainants Allanic, Chingkoe and Salas—all officers of DKC Holdings—were awarded in July 2003 a total of P5 million in back wages and were reinstated in their jobs following their illegal dismissal.

The ruling became final in February 2004 when the sheriff levied and sold, through public auction, DKC Holdings' shares of stocks.

DKC Holdings, a firm run by Faustino Chingkoe who is facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, challenged the NLRC ruling only on July 2004, a year after the decision was issued.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER. Defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda and her lawyer, Rufus Rodriguez (center), exchange pleasantries with Romulo Macalintal, lawyer of her rival Vice President Noli de Castro, during yesterday's chance encounter at the Supreme Court. REM ZAMORA

LEGARDA POLL PROTEST

PET junks Noli bid to dismiss

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, yesterday junked Vice President Noli de Castro's motion seeking to dismiss the electoral protest filed against him by defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda last year.

During the second preliminary conference on the case, Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban admonished De Castro's lawyers not to file another motion to dismiss, saying the PET had already given due course to Legarda's electoral protest, according to a press statement issued by the Legarda camp yesterday.

During the preliminary conference, which was held behind closed doors and to which the media was barred, Legarda's lawyers also brought to the court's attention "dilatory tactics" being employed by De Castro's camp.

The Legarda statement also said the PET's rejection of De Castro's motion was a twin victory for Legarda since the high court also gave due course to her petition to transfer the questioned ballot boxes from Congress to the PET.

The ballot boxes contained electoral returns which were used to defraud Legarda of victory, the statement said.

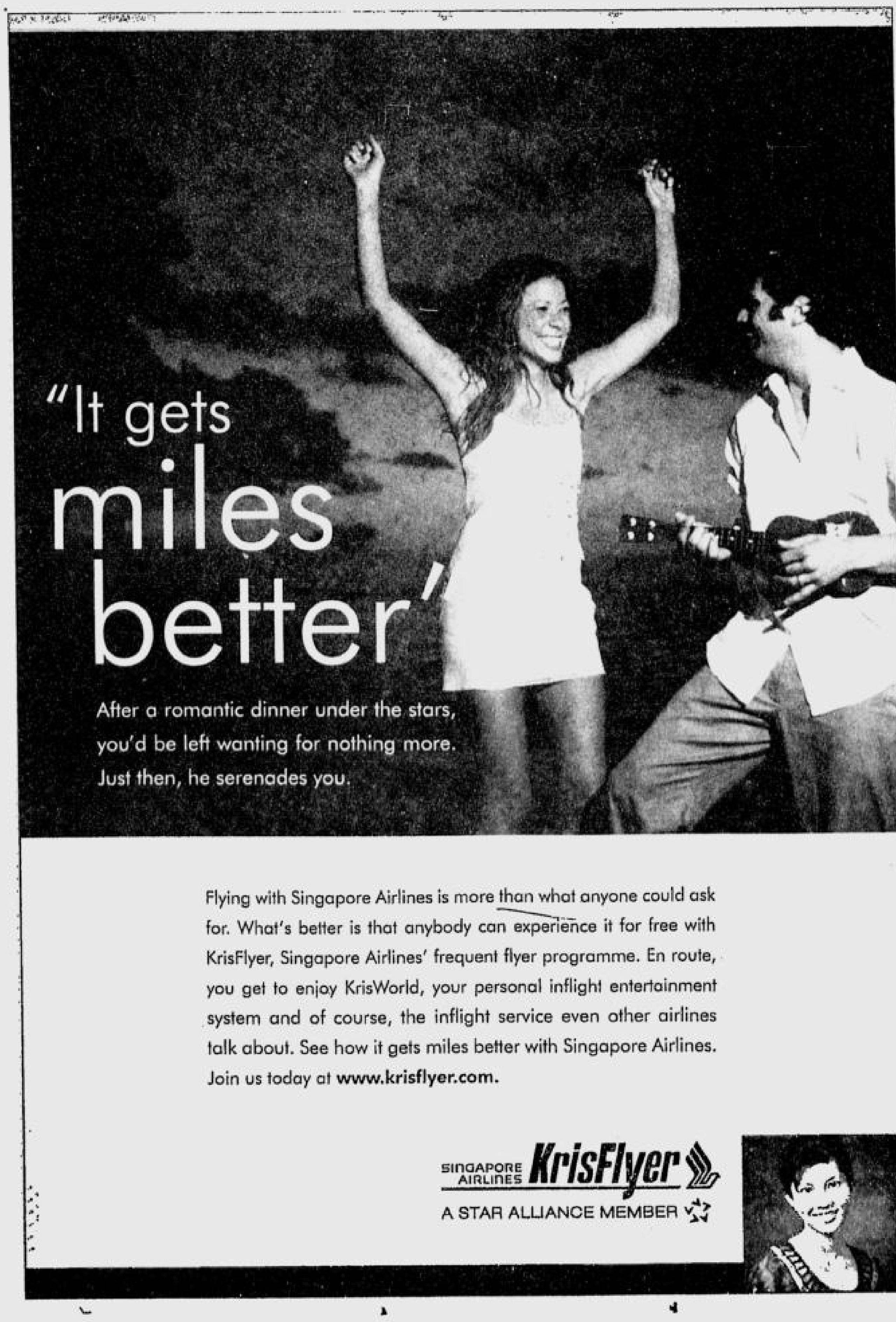
In its own statement citing its ruling allowing the transfer of the ballot boxes, the PET asked Legarda to consider increasing the partial cash deposit she made to get her protest rolling.

On June 30, Legarda deposited P4,084,500 with the PET for the review and recount of the electoral returns.

Vice President Noli de Castro, in a statement, reaffirmed his commitment to a speedy resolution of the case pending in the PET.

Lawyer Jesse H.T. Andres, De Castro's chief of staff, said the commitment included agreeing with the holding of the second preliminary conference and using the election returns for the recount instead of the ballots.

"We are confident De Castro's victory was clean. We are certain the Vice President was not involved in any electoral fraud," Andres said in the statement.



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12 senators seeking probe of 'great raid'

By TJ Burgonio

TWELVE senators are seeking an inquiry into the Aug. 17 raid on the safehouse of a document analyst that resulted in the seizure of election documents deemed vital to the electoral protest of losing vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. filed a resolution authorizing the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs to investigate the raid on the house occupied by Segundo Tabayoyong in San Mateo, Rizal.

Pimentel said the raid had the "earmarks of a clandestine political operation" designed to scare off witnesses and steal evidence in Legarda's case against Vice President Noli de Castro in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

"It's a direct breach of the self-proclaimed policy of the administration and AFP and PNP leaderships to stay neutral in partisan political conflicts," he said.

Joining Pimentel in his initiative were his colleagues in the minority bloc: Sergio Osmeña III, Jinggoy Estrada, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal and Panfilo Lacson.

Administration Senators Juan Flavier and Pia Cayetano and independent Senators Francis Pangilinan, Rodolfo Biazon and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. also agreed to sign the resolution.

Several senators had denounced the "Gestapo-like raid" carried out by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines without a search warrant.

Legarda, a former senator, ran alongside presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in last year's bitterly contested elections under the opposition banner. Claiming she was cheated, she lodged a case against De Castro.

Tabayoyong had been commissioned by Legarda to study the election returns the opposition believed were fabricated to ensure the victory of the administration candidates. He was her witness in her protest case.

In the resolution, the senators agreed on the need to open an inquiry into the raid in order to craft legislation that would "enhance the protection of the constitutional rights of persons against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Defense chief says he's staying put

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEFENSE Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. has denied reports he was returning to Malacañang as executive secretary.

"That's not true. I'm staying at the DND (Department of National Defense)," Cruz said in a chance interview at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

"I will definitely try to complete the programs I started here, especially the PDR (Philippine Defense Reform)," he said, referring to his centerpiece program.

Rumors had been circulating the past two weeks that Cruz would be replacing Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who reportedly plans to run for an elective post in his home province of Batangas in 2007.

The same rumors said former Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya (ret.) would replace Cruz as defense secretary.

Cruz was appointed chief presidential legal counsel when President Macapagal-Arroyo first assumed office in January 2001.

He took over as defense chief from Ermita in August 2004.

His appointment was in line with the recommendation of the Feliciano Commission which investigated the July 27, 2003, Oakwood mutiny.

The fact-finding board recommended, among other things, that the defense chief be a civilian.

Malacañang had further revamped the composition of the

defense department by appointing civilians to the four undersecretary positions.

They were Francisco del Rosario Jr., undersecretary for finance; Jose Santos, for defense acquisition; Rafael Antonio Santos, for operations, and Rodel Cruz, for legal and priority concerns.

Cruz is only the third civilian to hold the defense portfolio after the end of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986, the others being Juan Ponce Enrile and Orly Mercado.

House can ask DFA to cancel Garci passport – Miriam

By TJ Burgonio

HAVE you given up hopes Virgilio Garcillano would ever be repatriated to the country?

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday suggested that the House of Representatives itself request the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel the passport of the former elections commissioner.

Santiago, a former trial court judge and law professor, said the chamber could make the request to the DFA under the so-called "inter-departmental comity" doctrine and expect favorable results.

"What can be done is for the House of Representatives to send a request to the secretary of foreign affairs to cancel the passport on the ground that he's facing a contempt citation," she told reporters.

The inter-departmental comity is a doctrine under which one branch of government can make a request to another branch, and the "other is in effect morally obliged" to grant the request, according to the senator.

When reminded about DFA's position that it could not routinely cancel Garcillano's passport, Santiago said: "Remember that they belong to the executive branch and the House of Representatives belongs to a co-equal branch."

"I'm not prophesying but it would become feasible or possible if the House makes this request out of what is called inter-departmental comity," she added.

Foreign affairs officials had consistently rebuffed Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s suggestion that it cancel Garcillano's travel documents to facilitate his repatriation to Manila.

They maintained that they could only void a passport if the holder were charged with, or convicted of a crime, or the document itself was tampered.

Garcillano, who was accused of conspiring with President Macapagal-Arroyo to manipulate the results of last year's presidential elections, slipped out of the country for Singapore on July 14 and for an unknown destination the next day.

The House, which looked into the scandal, cited him for contempt and issued a warrant for his arrest after he snubbed its hearings.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, a former justice secretary, said that the country could request US help in tracking down Garcillano on the basis of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT).

"The treaty is broad enough to include violation of election laws, which is criminal in nature," he said, echoing Pimentel.

Santiago and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, however, disagreed, saying such a request would not fall under the scope of the treaty because Garcillano is not a fugitive from justice.

"It would not fall under the scope of the treaty because he's not a fugitive from justice at this time. At worst, he's only a fugitive from a contempt citation and generally, before a contempt citation is translated into actual penalty, the accused is always given a chance to explain why he was unable to comply with the order of the senate committee," Santiago said.

"I'm afraid that that request would not be granted by the American government for fear that it might set a precedent with respect to all other countries in the world. They won't be able to afford to do that."

Enrile argued that Garcillano was "not a fugitive from justice" and hence, could raise "an issue against anybody who will arrest or charge him or anything like that in other jurisdiction."

"If he committed a crime in the Philippines, that is not recognizable in other countries. A crime is, strictly territorial. What is their basis in asking the assistance of other governments?" he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had said that the government's chances of bringing Garcillano home were dim because the warrant against him was a mere offshoot of his being cited for contempt by the House.

Customs men to work Saturdays

By Michelle V. Remo

CUSTOMS Officer-in-Charge Alexander Arevalo has ordered the Bureau of Customs to work on Saturdays as the agency tries to compensate for its revenue shortfall in the first seven months and meet its collection target for the year.

The Saturday operations will be effective this week.

The bureau, which accounts for about 20 percent of the national government's revenue sources, is estimated to collect an average of P600 million in duties every day. This means that Saturday operations could add P600 million in additional duties every week for the BOC.

But Arevalo said he does not expect to generate P600 million a day in the first few Saturdays of the program. Just like opening a new store, it will take some time before we hit P600 million for one Saturday but we can achieve that," he said in an ambush interview with reporters.

With operations on Saturdays, Customs ports will be open to accept and release imported shipments.

The bureau would adjust schedules of employees so that some will have to work on Saturdays and then be given a day off on a weekday.

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'Jueteng' gets makeover; Bingo Combo coming

Ex-Cebu governor admits meeting Cam

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Former Cebu Gov. Vicente de la Serna yesterday admitted meeting with "jueteng" whistleblower Sandra Cam at the Manila Hotel early this month.

But he said that the meeting was to convince Cam not to be used by people with vested interests, and that he did not offer her P2.5 million to hide in another country.

"There never was an attempt by me for her to recant or not to testify. I just told her not to allow herself to be used. I even told her not to be bought if somebody offered [her] money because that would be an insult," he said.

De la Serna said the amount of P2.5 million was raised during the conversation, when Cam supposedly told him about her financial problems and her plan to go abroad in order to get away from the pressure and the risk to her life.

He said Cam also told him that some parties had offered her money ranging from P25 million to P50 million.

"If she has the recording of our conversation, then I welcome that," the ex-governor said. "I even want that to be played to find out the truth."

De la Serna denied that Malacañang had a hand in setting up the meeting.

He said he campaigned for Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the 2004 presidential polls, and not for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said he was able to meet with Cam because of Cerecio Mapula, a close ally of his who is now administrator of Placer town in Masbate.

Mapula said he and Placer Mayor Vicente Cutero met with Cam at the Manila Hotel on Aug. 9. He said De la Serna joined them the next day.

According to Mapula, he and the mayor were scheduled to fly to Manila to follow up some projects for the town when Cutero decided to check on Cam.

Cam and Cutero are friends and political allies, Mapula said. Both ran under the Reporma party of former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa in the last elections.

Cam ran for governor of Masbate but lost.

Mapula said Cam had even asked Cutero to bring her seafood.

This was Mapula's account:

Upon their arrival in Manila on Aug. 9, he and Cutero went to the Manila Hotel where Cam had checked in.

They had lunch in a restaurant at the hotel. During the conversation, Cam told them the reason she came out and accused the First Family of benefiting from jueteng.

She said the plan was to bring down the Arroyo administration and set up a civilian-military junta.

Alarmed, Mapula and Cutero told Cam of the possible implications of her action.

They met again in the morning of Aug. 10, also in the same hotel.

Cutero asked Cam how he could help her, and she told the group about her debts and her plan to go abroad.

Cam said she needed P2.5 million to pay off her debts as well as to buy a lot in Alfonso, Cavite, valued at P1.8 million.

Mapula phoned De la Serna, who happened to be in Manila at the time, to join them at the meeting.

From page A1

Filipinos."

President Macapagal-Arroyo is accused of using jueteng money to rig the 2004 presidential election, and her husband, son and brother-in-law are alleged to have received payoffs. They have all denied the allegations.

Balancing act

Cruz said that in introducing Bingo Combo, Ms Arroyo would be engaging in a delicate balancing act: She would make it appear that she was heeding the call to stamp out jueteng, but would not "alienate" a good number of political supporters among the local officials who benefit from the illegal but lucrative racket.

Cruz said that while Pagcor would officially introduce Bingo Combo, it would actually be run by local executives.

He said bet collectors and all others involved in jueteng operations would be "rehired" to perform the same functions with Bingo Combo.

"This is the 'alternative program' that the government was saying it would bring to those who would be displaced after jueteng," he said.

Cruz said that as in jueteng, Bingo Combo will involve betting on any of two numbers between 1 and 38, but "pompyang" (or betting on the same numbers like 8 and 8) would not be allowed.

He said the minimum bet for Bingo Combo would be P10 but bets between P1 and P9 would actually be allowed, with the proceeds going to the pockets of unscrupulous officials.

According to Cruz, the new game will "just make people gamble" and "exploit the poor."

"This goes to show that this administration appears to be morally bankrupt," he said. "This is very sad because we are moving backwards."

Sept. 15

Even the Sept. 15 deadline has roused Cruz's suspicion.

The archbishop said that within jueteng circles, the date traditionally signaled the start of lucrative collections that went on throughout the "ber" months.

He said betting was plentiful at this time because people had money to spend.

Pimentel said Ms Arroyo's move to set the deadline was another "charade."

He pointed out that her previous orders to stamp out the numbers racket had been "conveniently forgotten" because of her supposed lack of political will to enforce them.

He said Ms Arroyo was "again at her duplicitous best with her statement that jueteng will be stopped by Sept. 15."

"Jueteng will not be stopped," he declared.

Pimentel also said it was hypocritical of Ms Arroyo to order an all-out war against jueteng a few weeks after her "lackeys" bribed a couple of witnesses to turn around and clear the First Family of links to the numbers game.

"It's a pity she is using everyone, including Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, for this nefarious scheme to hoodwink the people," he added.

Resurgence of operations

The Philippine National Police yesterday confirmed a resurgence of jueteng operations in Luzon and declared that it had established a working relationship with Hagedorn, the antijueteng czar.

As though to prove that it had not been sleeping on the job, the PNP said Chief Insp. Dionisio de Guzman, police chief of Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, was sacked on Monday for failing to wipe out the numbers racket.

Undaunted by insinuations that the performance of the police was not up to par—hence the need for Hagedorn to step in and for Ms Arroyo to set the Sept. 15 deadline—PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said the Puerto Princesa mayor would convince mayors and governors to support the PNP's antijueteng drive.

"I talked to Mayor Hagedorn a week ago, and he feels and believes that the campaign against jueteng will not be successful without the support of the mayors," Lomibao said.

Jueteng whistle-blowers have repeatedly accused mayors and governors of being game financiers and/or operators.

Ranking PNP officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have confirmed this, saying only local officials could stop jueteng operations.

Still unclear role

Lomibao said Hagedorn's role in the antijueteng drive was still unclear to the PNP.

But he quoted the mayor as saying: "Let us help each other.

"I will be the one who will explain to the mayors that the President really wants to stop jueteng."

Lomibao said he had directed the antigambling task force led by Chief Supt. Florante Baguio to check reports of renewed jueteng operations in Quirino and Isabela provinces.

As of last month, about 12 police chiefs had lost their posts for failure to curb jueteng, a PNP statement said.

Jueteng hearings

Also yesterday, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. canceled a meeting of members of the jueteng investigating panels earlier scheduled to decide whether the public hearings on the racket should be resumed.

Villar, who co-chairs the jueteng inquiry with Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, deferred the meeting for next week after Lapid backed out.

Lapid said he saw no need to attend the meeting because his committee on games, amusement and sports was already drafting its report on whether to legalize jueteng after eight hearings, according to Villar. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

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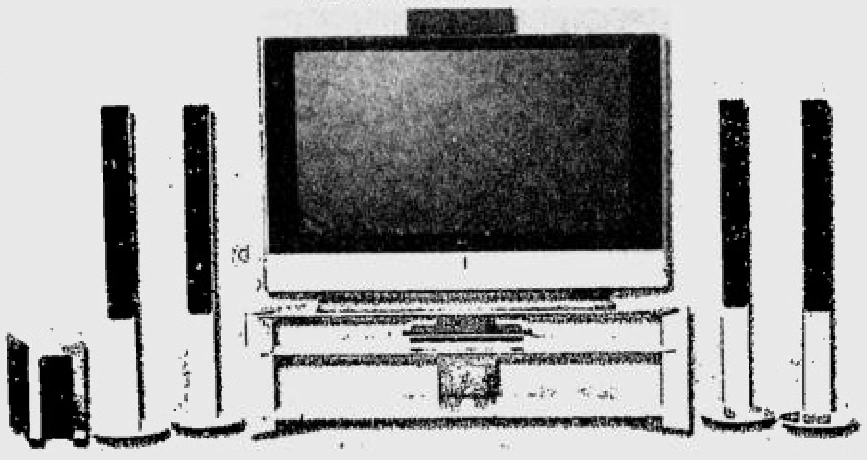

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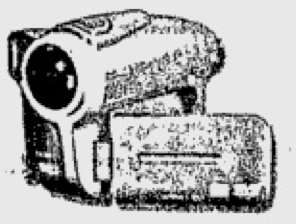

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30	Sony Cybershot DSC-T7 digital cameras
50	Apple iPod Photo 30GB

- The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than October 31, 2005. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Ad.

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    - Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 11)
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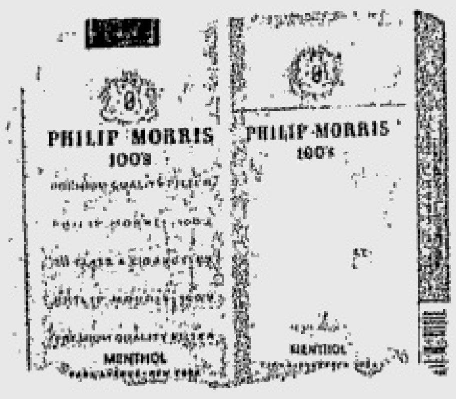

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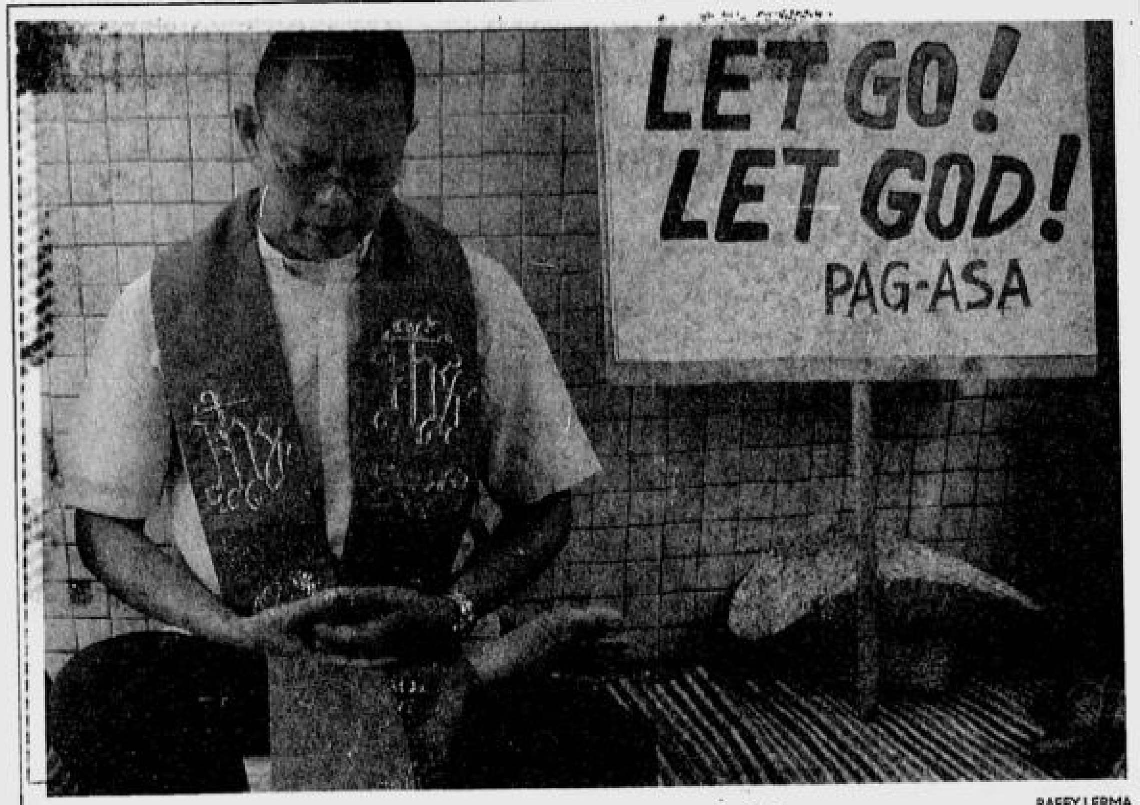

LET GO!
LET GOD!
PAG-ASA

RAFFY LERMA

RUNNING PRIEST Robert Reyes on hunger strike at the Edsa Shrine. The message was delivered.

Fr. Robert packs up, ends hunger strike

By Luige A. del Puerto

AFTER 44 days of taking only fruit juice, activist-priest Robert Reyes broke his fast on Sunday night with a cup of bean curd, a bowl of porridge and a plate of pasta.

He ate sparingly, taking more than half-an-hour to finish this simple meal.

That night, hundreds of supporters who gathered at the People Power Monument to promote hope, met to dismantle their symbol of hope – the tent that Reyes, Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez, cultural activist Nicanor Perlas and several others had put up.

The group, however, said that this was not the end of their struggle.

"The atmosphere was mixed," Gerard Deveza, volunteer driver of Enriquez, described the mood that night. "Many shed tears. Some were happy it was over, relieved that Fr. Reyes was finally going to break his fast. Some were sad, because a new fellowship had been born."

Reyes took a physical beating and prayed hard that Ms Arroyo would step down. But his prayers must have been stopped at the gates of Malacañang. Ms Arroyo not only refused to resign, she seemed to have weathered the storm.

What had the activist-priest achieved after his month-long hunger strike?

"I tried to impart the lesson that a political battle cannot be accomplished without first conquest of self," Reyes told the INQUIRER yesterday. He looked gaunt and pale, his weight down from 165 lbs. (taken on July 10) to Sunday's 137 lbs.

"People are obsessed with power. There is so much political and economic gluttony," he said. By fasting, Reyes had hoped politicians would realize the value of self-sacrifice and of putting personal interests last.

Perlas said he believes many people got the message.

"All kinds of people came to the monument. The rich were there, the poor, too. There were politicians and political leaders. Yes, the message got through," he said.

Perlas, a member of Kompil II, the civil society coalition that helped bring down the Estrada administration in 2001, said a community had been born at the shrine – a small one but a community nonetheless.

The poor bonded with the rich, the rich rubbed elbows with the artists, the artists sang songs with ordinary folks, Muslims prayed with Christians.

Tired of the Arroyo regime but distrustful of the opposition, Perlas' group trooped to the shrine in July to offer the people a "third way" of looking at and tackling the country's political crisis.

The group said that what the country needed was spirituality, humility and self-sacrifice, and that any change must begin with the individual. By praying at the foot of the monument, they hoped that people would see that they could shun violence or "loud" protest actions and still call for genuine change, in this case, Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Reyes and Enriquez said that while protesting, they did not abandon their priestly duties.

"I went back to my parish in Project 4 every day between 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. I said Mass at 6 a.m. and stayed until 2 p.m. [In between] I heard confessions and blessed people," Reyes said. "I have never been more closer to my parish than now."

NDF leaders mourn death of Capt. Jarque

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Fe B. Zamora

IN DEATH, even people from the other side of the fence paid tribute to Army Capt. Rene Jarque.

Leaders of the communist National Democratic Front of the Philippines yesterday hailed Jarque as a "patriotic officer and man of the highest integrity" who had become friendly with the rebels after seeing the corruption in the military.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of a good friend who was ever mindful of the interest and welfare of the people," the NDFP said in a statement released yesterday.

"We hope that more officers and personnel of the AFP emulate Rene Jarque's example of exposing what is wrong in the AFP and in the ruling system," it said.

Jarque, who died in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday, had loved his country very much, the NDFP said.

Jarque had met with NDFP leaders twice in the Netherlands.

The first time was during a visit by his parents, Raymundo and Xenia, for the 1997 peace negotiations where Ray served as consultant for military affairs of the NDFP negotiating panel.

Disillusioned

Ray was a brigadier general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines fighting the New People's Army in Negros when he defected to the rebel side in October 1995 out of "disillusionment" after being accused of grand theft and frustrated murder by a local landowner.

He was also accused of multiple frustrated murder for supposedly masterminding the failed attempt on the life of then special prosecutor Aniano Desierto, who went on to become the Ombudsman.

In both cases, the older Jarque was subsequently cleared.

Rene Jarque again visited the NDFP last year to share his views and insights on the peace negotiations.

"We shared a common desire and vision of building a country where hardworking people can live a life of dignity and relative prosperity. He became increasingly friendly to and cooperative with patriotic and progressive forces in the motherland," the NDFP said.

"Until his death, he never lost hope or his zeal for fighting for reforms."

The group's statement was signed by the NDFP negotiating panel composed of Luis G. Jalandoni, Julieta de Lima-Sison, Fidel V. Agcaoili, Coni K. Ledesma and Asterio Palima; consultants and advisers Prof. Jose Maria Sison, former International Court Judge Romeo T. Capulong, Vicente Ladlad and Danilo Borjal, and secretariat members Ruth de Leon and Maria Lourdes Villanueva.

No show

To the last, Jarque was pushing his advocacy.

According to his wife, Gay, he was supposed to meet with CNN reporter Cathy Quiano, a Filipino based in Jakarta, on Aug. 17.

But Jarque didn't show up. His driver found him slumped unconscious on the floor of his apartment. Revived at a nearby hospital, Gay said her husband told the doctors he had a relapse of the flu he had a week earlier.

It was actually much worse. Medical tests showed Jarque was hypertensive. "And he didn't even know it," Gay, who lives in Manila with their three children, said.

When Gay arrived in Jakarta the next day, Jarque had slipped into a coma. He also had a high fever, indicating severe infection, according to Gay.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19, Jarque passed away at the age of 40. Aside from Gay, he left behind their children Bryan, 10; Marla, 7, and Hannah, 5.

Jarque will be buried at noon on Saturday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio. Necrological services will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, at St. Michael's Church, also in Fort Bonifacio.

'Tactical oversight'

Looking at the coffin from across the room at the Santuario de San Antonio chapel in Forbes Park, where Jarque's remains lie, his father could only sigh: "He committed a tactical oversight."

"I'd always told him to stay away from high cholesterol food, but I think he could not help it when he went out with foreigners," Raymundo said in Filipino.

JARQUE

Gay said her husband did not undergo regular physical exams but had prided himself in being "physically fit like any Scout Ranger."

Jarque was a young Scout Ranger officer when he was first exposed to graft and corruption, an evil in the military which he would fight through his writings.

A 1986 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, Jarque resigned from the AFP in 1998. He worked as an executive assistant at the Department of National Defense until 2000, when he joined the French company Lafarge Cement as purchasing and logistics manager.

Last year, he joined the Indonesian conglomerate Argo-Manunggal as technical adviser for logistics and procurement. His new job required him to live in Jakarta.

During brief visits to Manila, Jarque continued his advocacy against corruption, mismanagement and incompetence in the military through his writings and speeches before cause-oriented organizations.

Association with Left

His advocacy brought him to organizations identified with the Left.

In fact, the first Mass at Jarque's wake at the Santuario de San Antonio was officiated by Fr. Jose Dizon, a militant priest who was detained by the military during the Marcos regime.

Not surprisingly, among the first to condole with the Jarque family were party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, and anti-corruption advocate Dr. Carol Araullo, who are often described as "left-leaning" in military briefings.

Condom use among sex workers low

By Christian V. Esguerra

AMID the prospect of a coming AIDS crisis in the region, only 37 percent of sex workers in the Philippines use condoms.

The percentage is a far cry from the 70-percent usage rate prescribed by the World Health Organization for a country to prevent the rapid increase of the sexually-transmitted disease, according to Dr. Elena Borromeo, the UNAIDS' country representative.

Borromeo said the UNAIDS, along with the Department of Health, was conducting a pilot test to promote 100 percent use of condoms in four areas in Northern Luzon, including Dagupan City in Pangasinan and San Fernando, La Union.

The effort is part of the government's AIDS Medium Term Plan, which outlines the country's strategy against the disease in the next five years.

It was important to contain AIDS between now and 2010 because it was expected to shift from Africa to Asia after that, Dr. Roderick Poblete of the Philippine National AIDS Council had told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"This is our last window of opportunity," he said.

As of July, the DOH has documented only 2,314 HIV cases which were relatively low compared to those in neighboring countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

But Borromeo said the figures should not deceive or trigger complacency. Health officials estimate that there were actually around 10,000 Filipinos with HIV.

"The problem is hidden and growing," Borromeo said the launching of the AIDS Medium Term Plan at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila. "For every one case reported, we might be missing out on two to three more."

Besides sex workers, intravenous drug users and "men having sex with men" or MSM were also troubling health officials in terms of possible AIDS infection.

Borromeo said sharing needles with a person with HIV or AIDS was the fastest way to transmit the virus. She said this practice was monitored to be prevalent in Cebu, General Santos, and Zamboanga City lately.

SAVING POWER

Crackdown on Naia illegal connections

By Nikko Dizon

ENERGY saving measures of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) has led to a crackdown on the "tolerated" illegal connections to the power supply of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi said the airport management was scheduled to cut off the power supply of the Our Lady of the Airways Parish (Olap) at 5 p.m. yesterday, despite an extension requested by parish priest Msgr. Modesto Teston.

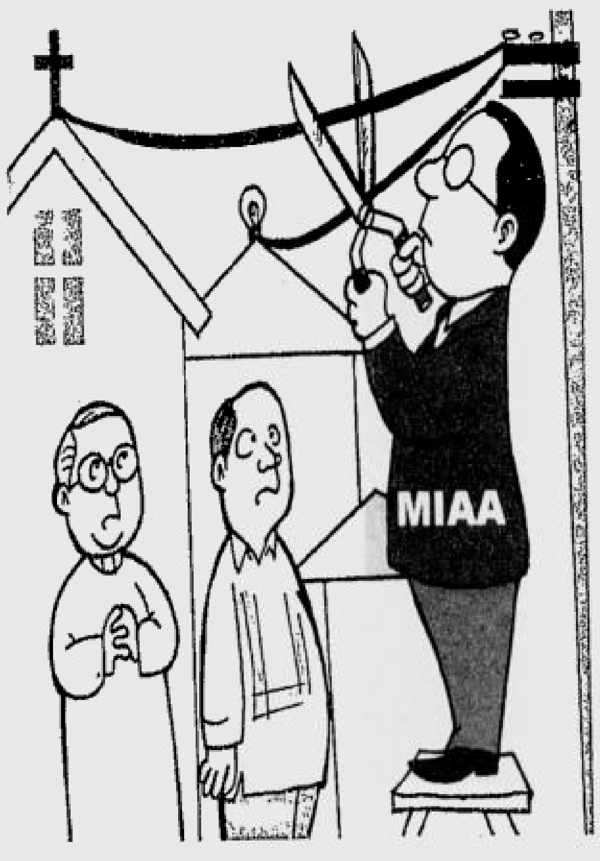
Cusi also said that the Miaa had also disconnected the power supply to the house of airport official, Elpidio Mendoza, Miaa assistant general manager for engineering, and more than 20 other houses occupied by Miaa employees at Barangay Pildera 2 located at the corner of MIA Road and Ninoy Aquino Ave.

The church and the houses, including that of Mendoza's, are under the Miaa housing project.

"There has been an alleged tolerance from previous administrations, but that's wrong. There is no basis for that," Cusi told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday, referring to the power line connections of the church and Mendoza's house to the power supply of the Naia.

Cusi said the Miaa is now investigating the illegal connections.

The Miaa crackdown came after Malacañang urged government agencies and the public to save energy in the light of the oil crisis. The airport management is paying P40 million monthly on power bills.



Cusi declined to give an estimate of how much Miaa was paying for the pilfered electricity.

Teston told reporters that the parish church's connection to the airport's power supply was legal.

Teston said past airport general managers have verbally agreed to provide free electricity to the parish church since the late 1970s.

The priest expressed confidence that the Miaa would not cut off the power supply of the church, which has an estimated 50,000 parishioners.

The priest added that a power meter was to be installed yesterday at the church. However, he said he had asked Miaa to subsidize a portion of the electricity bill since the parish also extended services to airport employees and even passengers for free.

Mendoza, who is retiring in six months, said in a phone interview that he was willing to face any investigation, confident that he had done nothing wrong.

"I even started the investigation (into the illegal power connections), so how could I be stealing electricity myself?" he told the INQUIRER.

Mendoza said the power connection from his house, which he described as an "official Miaa residence," to the Naia began in the late 1980s.

It has been approved by the past airport administrations, in consideration of his work as the airport's chief engineer, on call 24 hours a day.

Palace vows to penalize violators of energy saving order

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday issued a stern warning that it will not hesitate to penalize government employees that fail to comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to conserve energy.

"We will summon them and ask them to explain. We can slap them with administrative measures," said Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Flores, head of the newly formed energy audit team. The team is tasked to ensure compliance with all government agencies to cut fuel electricity consumption by at least 10 percent from their billings in the first half of this year.

In a briefing, Flores said his team, which also includes Energy Undersecretary Peter Abaya has been given the mandate to survey and audit all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to assess their compliance to the energy conservation measures embodied in the recently-signed Administrative Order No. 126.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the government has decided to include LGUs in the energy audit because they have a lot to contribute to energy conservation efforts.

Each agency will designate their own energy chief who will be tasked to meet the audit team during its survey and audit visits. The team will then adopt a benchmark from which each agency and LGU would be measured as to their compliance to the energy conservation movement.

"We have to consolidate our data to show a comprehensive report to the President on how the energy conservation efforts are doing," Flores said.

Lotilla and Flores were at the National Economic and Development Authority meeting yesterday morning where they briefed their peers on the government's strategy to defend the economy against the looming oil crisis.

Lotilla said the government expected the country's oil bill to hit $5.5 billion this year, up 20 percent from $4.57 billion last year. The increase is mainly due to surging oil prices as volume demand remained unchanged from last year's level.

The government is also proceeding slowly on its plan to adopt Marcos-era energy conservation measures to address the looming crisis such as fuel rationing and limited hours for commercial operations. Lotilla said the government would first consult with the private sector and Congress before pursuing its plan to seek emergency powers for the President that would compel the private sector heed energy conservation measures.

Dengue still on a rampage

By Christian V. Esguerra

STILL two months before the dengue season is over, the mosquito-borne disease remains on a rampage.

The Department of Health (DOH) has declared an outbreak in the second district of Valenzuela City, following the death of three people and the infection of at least 196 others as of Aug. 13.

Over all, the virus has killed 197 of the 14,738 people who got sick nationwide as of Aug. 19, according to the DOH bulletin released yesterday.

The number of infections was 20 percent more than the cases documented during the same period last year. Of the total number, 6,384 or 43 percent belonged to the 1-9 age bracket.

Not surprising

Dr. Eric Tayag, head of the DOH National Epidemiology Center, yesterday said the increase in the number was not surprising, considering that the dengue season was not expected to end until October.

"It will really rise because it's still raining and more and more people are seeking treatment," he told the INQUIRER.

Tayag earlier said that health officials were expecting more than 20,000 cases by the time the season was over.

On the average, he said 400 to 500 new cases were reported every week. In the DOH's Aug. 14 update, total infections nationwide stood only at 14,142.

In response to the growing number, Tayag said the DOH would put up "outposts" in areas badly hit by dengue.

The outposts, to be manned by health workers, will decongest hospitals usually packed with dengue patients. They will be set up in the communities so patients won't have to go to the hospital.

'Express lanes'

One outpost was set up yesterday in Quezon City. Tayag said it would deal with dengue patients who could no longer be accommodated at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, East Avenue, and Quezon City General Hospital.

The DOH was also setting up "express lanes" in the emergency rooms of government hospitals to provide quick care to dengue patients.

Dengue has claimed the most number of fatalities at 56 in Region 10. The same area has a total of 2,317 cases as of Aug. 19.

In Region 7, the virus killed 33 people even if the area ranked only fourth (1,524) among regions badly hit by dengue.

Metro Manila has a total of 2,252 infections with 27 deaths.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 24, 2005
Bartholomew, Apostle

1st Reading: Rev 21:9-14
Gospel: John 1:45-51

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one that Moses wrote about in the Law, and the prophets as well: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth."

Nathanael replied, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

Today we hear the story of how the first apostles were called in John's gospel and the apostle we remember today isn't even mentioned—he is just among the others. And they are called, not by name in John's gospel (only Philip) but by others who are caught and then go after another, passing on what they have found. And they are all finding something a bit different—but none of them actually find Jesus. In this very first chapter he tells them and us that we know nothing of who he is and who we belong to—one day though we will see the Son of Man coming in glory for judgment over heaven and earth. He is the crucified One, the suffering servant and the judge of the nations, no matter what we think he might be for us. Like all the apostles we must spend our lives relearning and stretching our heart and minds so that we can know more of our God in Jesus.

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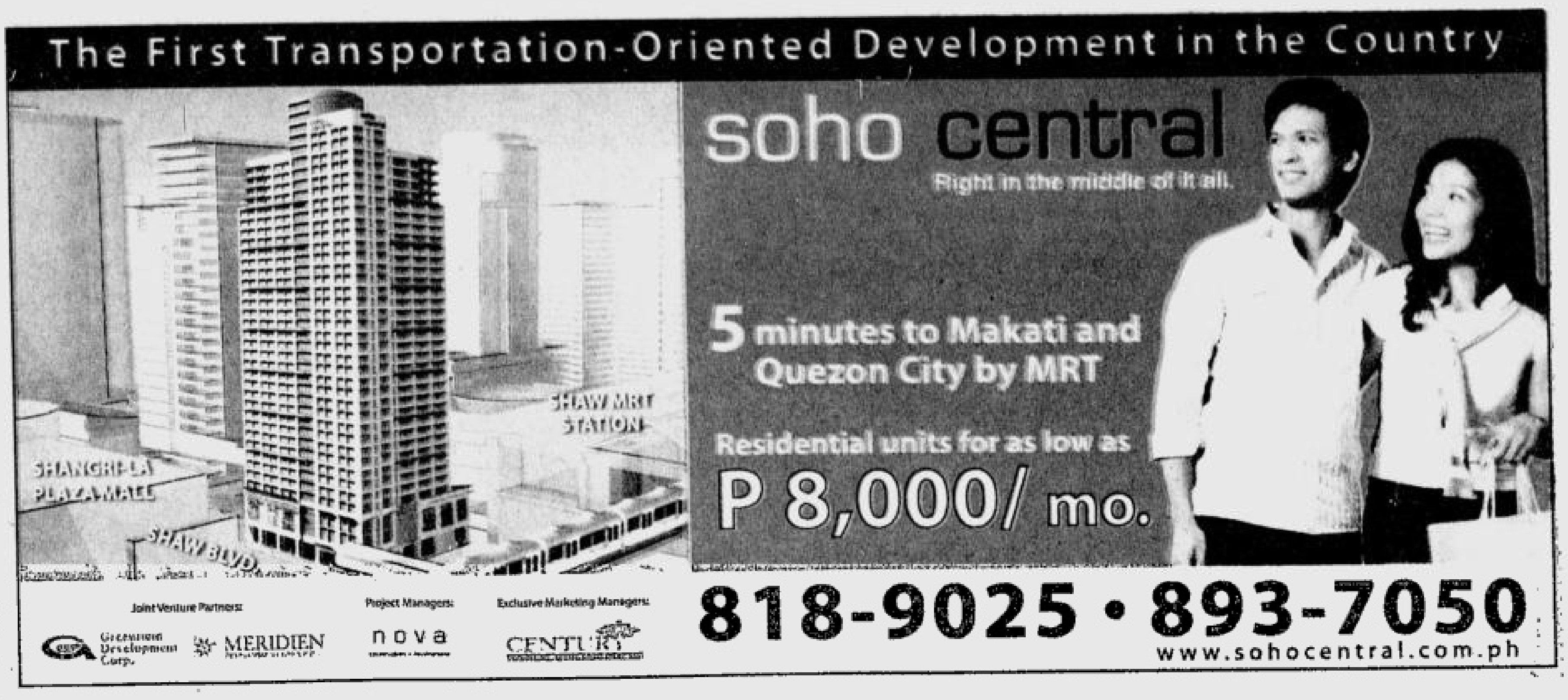
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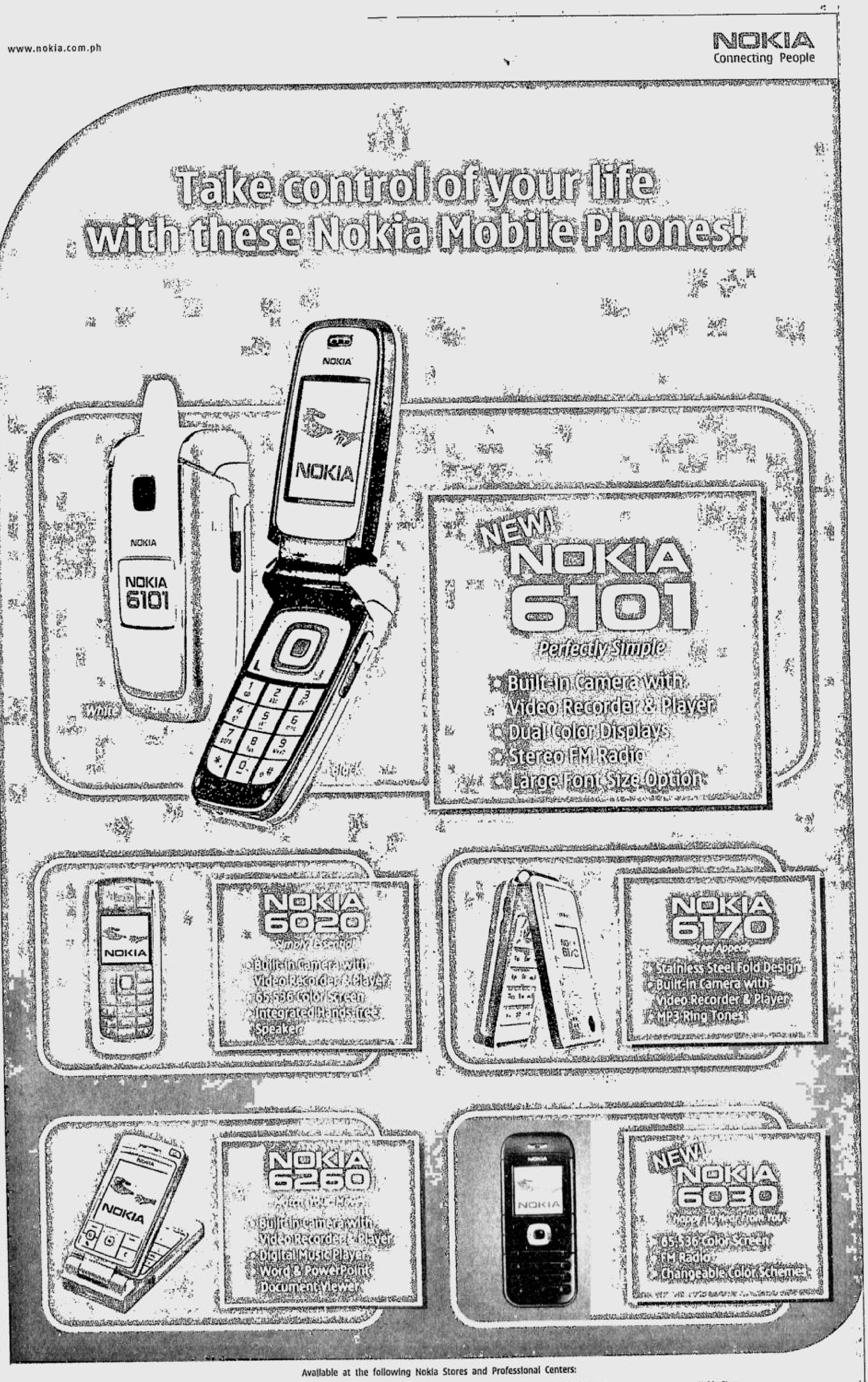
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4 'young guns' sign impeach rap vs GMA

By Michael Lim Ubac

BREAKING away from Malacañang, four administration congressmen last night endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by the opposition against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Calling themselves the "young guns," Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. and Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes signed individual endorsement resolutions in front of TV cameras.

Another opposition lawmaker, Rene Magtubo, also signed the complaint yesterday.

So far, the impeachment complaint has garnered 47 signatures—still shy of the 79 needed, or one third of the House membership of 236—to move the case to the Senate for trial.

At a hastily called press conference, Barbers said he expected more members of the "conscience bloc" in the majority to support the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

"We're acting in accordance with the rule of law. We can never see the truth in killing the impeachment process due to a technicality," said Barbers as he sought the "understanding" of his colleagues in Lakas-CMD and its allied parties,

The move was greeted with jubilation in the opposition camp, with Representatives Ronaldo Zamora, Rolex Suplico, Benigno Aquino III, Etta Rosales, Darlene Custodio and Florencio Noel shaking the hands of or hugging the newcomers.

"This is to show that we have principles, convictions. The impeachment issue must transcend party lines. In doing so, we're not just helping the President ferret out the truth but also proving that Congress is still an institution that the people can trust," said Barbers.

Remulla said he was signing the impeachment complaint "without knowing the numbers."

"I believe that the President should be given her day in court. The impeachment should not be killed here or in the Senate. She should be given a chance to defend herself, lest there be tumult in the streets," said Remulla.

"Win or lose, this is the right thing to do," said Jaworski.

Reyes said the proceedings in the justice committee were "too slow and not towards the search for truth."

"At least before they kill it, we made our sentiments known. We did not stand on one fence and did nothing," said Reyes, who served as impeachment prosecutor during the aborted trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

Magtubo said that although Partido Manggagawa did not believe that the impeachment would solve poverty and oppression, he endorsed the complaint to show that the party-list group respected constitutional processes.

House opts for 'longer route to nowhere'

From page A1

map for an orderly handling of the impeachment complaint."

The amended complaint charges Ms Arroyo with culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and bribery and graft and corruption for allegedly cheating in last year's balloting. She also stands accused of receiving bribes from the illegal numbers game, hiding her real assets and properties, among others.

Ace surprises

Ms Arroyo has asserted she won the vote "fair and square."

Surigao del Norte's Robert Ace Barbers, an administration congressman, pulled a surprise when he voted with proimpeachment lawmakers in opposing the Lagman motion.

Administration Representatives Jesus "Boying" Remulla (Gavite), Arnulfo Fuentebella (Camarines) and Antonino Roman (Bataan) abstained.

The impeachment complaint has so far garnered 47 signatures. Seventy-nine votes are needed at any stage of the panel hearings to bring the case to immediate trial in the Senate.

Final vote?

However, House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he expected a "final vote" today or tomorrow that would kill the impeachment complaint.

"They have no strong evidence. So far, it's all hearsay. Even the tapes were acquired illegally and then the witnesses kept on changing their testimony, and some of the witnesses are controversial characters," De Venecia said.

The impeachment complaint was triggered by revelations of a wiretap allegedly implicating Ms Arroyo in vote-rigging—a charge she has denied.

Malacañang yesterday admitted that it was working toward resolving the impeachment case before Ms Arroyo leaves for New York to attend the UN General Assembly on Sept. 14-16.

"It is naturally ideal for a sitting president to be able to represent the country in such an important international event without any political baggage from back home," said Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs.

UNITED they stand but opposition congressmen just do not have the numbers for a vote to expedite the impeachment process and go straight to the complaint's form and substance, rather than tackling the prejudicial questions regarding proceedings.

AP

Prejudicial questions

To be debated when the committee hearing resumes today are the seven prejudicial questions, or antecedent matters that should be resolved prior to the main issues:

- Was the amended complaint which was filed on July 25, 2005, properly or seasonably interposed or is it a prohibited pleading under Article 11 of the Constitution and the pertinent rules on impeachment of the House of Representatives?
- Considering that the amended complaint was filed on July 25, 2005, when the House had not yet adopted the Rules of Procedure on Impeachment in the 13th Congress, under what standard or rule should the filing of the amended complaint be assessed?
- Since the amended complaint radically and substantially supplanted the original complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano, a supporter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, should it be considered as a separate, independent new complaint?
- If it is considered a separate or new complaint, is it barred by the one-year rule?
- How will the amended complaint be assessed under the standard or definition of initiating impeachment proceedings in the case of Ernesto Francisco Jr. vs the House of Representatives?
- Did the amended complaint supersede the original Lozano complaint?
- What is the import and effect of the respondent's filing of an early answer on the amended complaint?

Two issues

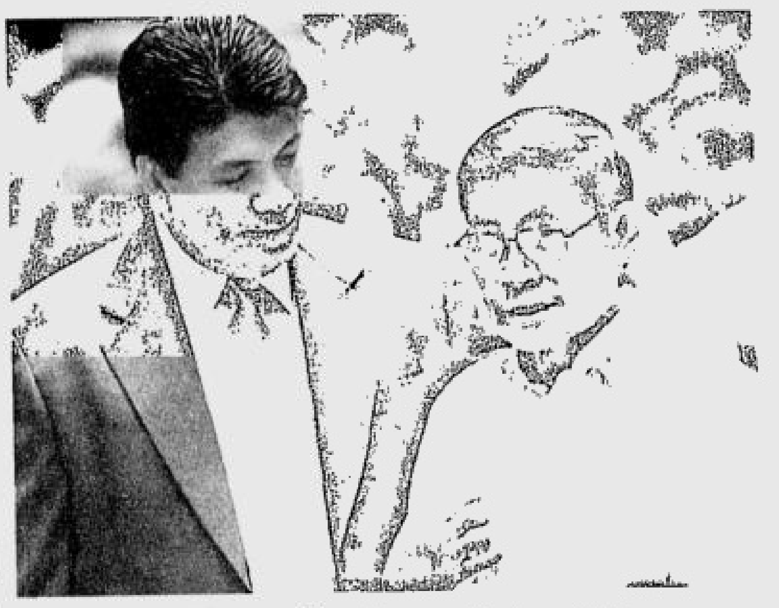
House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the committee should go directly to the determination of form and substance as mandated by the Constitution so that the complaint could move up to the Senate.

Escudero said there were only two main issues—the contention that the amended complaint was not a third complaint but was "one and the same as the original complaint" and whether the three complaints could be "simply lumped together."

He also suggested that the seven prejudicial questions should be trimmed to three to expedite the proceedings.

Escudero recommended that the three complaints be incorporated into one, the committee proceed immediately with the determination of form and substance and, in the process, answer the points raised by Lagman.

Also yesterday, Malacañang dismissed opposition claims that Ms Arroyo had been campaigning to stop the impeachment case.



CIVIL RELATIONS at work here between the immovable proimpeachment Rep. Crispin Beltran and the epitome of the GMA man in the House, Rep. Prospero Pichay.

JOAN BONDOC

"Opposition reports that the President is calling congressmen and their relatives to win their support against the impeachment complaints are false and intended only to embarrass the President and put pressure on congressmen," said Claudio.

"If its claim is true, the opposition should show its evidence," said Romulo Macalintal, the President's impeachment spokesperson. He said the opposition allegation brought suspicion on all congressmen because it did not identify those lawmakers who supposedly got a phone call from the President.

Tyranny of numbers

Macalintal also wondered whether this was the opposition's way of swaying its colleagues in the House to vote in its favor on the impeachment complaint.

Lawmakers said yesterday's vote was unlikely to draw a line under the months-old political crisis, with the opposition still hoping that public distrust of Arroyo would help it muster the support needed to impeach her.

Still fragile

"We realize that at the end of the day the majority can railroad this and use brute force, use the tyranny of numbers," said Rep. Roilo Golez, a former national security adviser under Ms Arroyo who has turned against her. "They might win this battle but lose the war."

VIPS UP IN THE GALLERY. Former Cabinet secretaries Dinky Soliman (right) and Ging Deles, both members of the "Hyatt 10," monitor the hearings of the justice committee at the Batasan. Behind is actor Pen Medina wearing a pink shirt emblazoned with the "R" word.

LYN RILLON

Political analysts said Ms Arroyo still looked fragile given her dire popularity ratings and as Filipinos brace for an economic chill from spiraling world oil prices that could be made worse by her attempts to raise taxes. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr, Christine O. Avendano, Philip C. Tubeza, Reuters*

₱5-B road fund splits GMA allies in House

From page A1

to Kampi members and Lakas solons they want to draft into Kampi.

Of the P2.2-billion RUT fund issued under a Special Allotment Release Order on July 4, the top three recipients were Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda of Kampi (P65 million) and Leyte Rep. Remedios "Matin" Petilla (P90 million) and Pampanga Rep. Jesus Reynaldo Aquino (P50 million), both Lakas members who had long been wooed by Puno to beef up Kampi's ranks of 31 lawmakers.

Disgruntled Lakas members

The source said roughly 30 out of 78 disgruntled Lakas members in the House were considering forming a "conscience bloc" within the administration party.

With the discontent, the source warned that Kampi moves to block the impeachment through generous project allocations could ultimately backfire.

The emergence of a conscience bloc among the administration allies could provide a swing vote for the opposition which has so far generated only 47 of the 79 signatures needed to elevate the impeachment case to the Senate, the source said.

The source said Speaker Jose de Venecia, as early as July, had warned the President of the ramifications of the Puno brothers' plan to use the road users' tax fund to influence the voting of congressmen in that impeachment complaint.

Releases suspended

However, it was only on Monday that Ms Arroyo ordered Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane to suspend the distribution of the RUT fund.

The INQUIRER reported on Aug. 9 that the Road Board had approved a total of P5.1 billion—P2.5 billion in April and P2.6 billion in July—for preventive road maintenance this year, its biggest allocation since the government started collecting the road users' tax in 2001.

Under a law passed in 2000, fees for vehicle registration were raised to set up a fund for road maintenance, improve drainage, install efficient traffic lights and safety devices and control pollution. Management and utilization of the fund are left to the Road Board, which includes the secretaries of finance, public works, budget, and transportation and communications.

The Road Board defended the hefty allocation this year, citing the backlog of P50 billion worth of road work in the last 20 years. The board even adopted regional ceilings that would determine how much each district would get depending on vehicle density.

Not for bribes

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, denied there was a brewing rift in the coalition. He dismissed claims the RUT was being used as a carrot in the anti-impeachment drive, saying that even opposition members got a share of the fund.

Claudio also noted that it was "providential" that the rainy season had set in, forcing the government to suspend the funds' allocation while it explained the purpose of the projects and how the funds were distributed.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino of Kampi also denied disaffection among the Arroyo allies. He said the Lakas-Kampi alliance was still "intact."

Still, Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress reacted sharply to opposition claims that administration congressmen were favored in the fund allocations.

House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles, Antonino and Occidental Mindoro Rep. Ma. Amelita Villarosa said the allocations were not meant to "bribe" lawmakers into voting against impeachment.

They noted that 12 leading proimpeachment lawmakers, including House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, also got allocations for their districts.

In contrast, House leaders Speaker Jose de Venecia, House Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar, House justice committee chair Simeon Datumanong, and even staunch administration stalwarts Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri received no allocations.

Absolutely despicable

"For the opposition to say that the road users' tax projects were a reward and punishment system on the impeachment is absolutely despicable," said Antonino.

Antonino and Villarosa said that of the P2.2 billion in RUT funds, P399.395 million was appropriated for opposition lawmakers.

They said Escudero got a P10 million allocation; Cebu City Rep. Clavel Martinez, P37.8 million; Rodolfo Agbayani (Nueva Vizacaya), P30 million; Elias Ruy Lopez (Davao City), P29 million; Justin Chipeco (Laguna), P20 million; Darlene Antonino-Custodio (South Cotabato), P15 million; Arthur Pingoy (South Cotabato), P15 million, and Alan Peter Cayetano (Taguig-Pateros), P10 million.

Nograles said Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon got P10 million; Proceso Alcala (Quezon), P10 million; Nereus Acosta (Bukidnon), P8 million, and Joseph Santiago (Catanduanes), P40 million.

Nograles said he only got an allocation of P5 million. He also stressed that not a single centavo from the RUT funds would "reach the pockets of congressmen" because they are directly allocated to the Department of Public Works and Highways through its regional and district directors.

Antonino also pointed out that the request for the RUT allocations was made on June 6, or long before lawyer Oliver Lozano filed his initial impeachment complaint against the President on June 27.

Villarosa also clarified that "not a centavo" had been released since the DPWH was still in the process of bidding out the repair projects.

Fat pork retained by Palace in '06 budget

From page A1

Members of the House, however, are getting additional funds in the form of fund allocations from the road users' tax for the maintenance of streets in their districts. Opposition legislators claimed that those belonging to the administration received the bulk of the money.

The President cut the pork of lawmakers last year apparently because she was not facing impeachment complaints, which accuse her of vote-rigging and other illegal acts. Also, she was not seeking favors from Congress in line with her bid to amend the Charter.

Ms Arroyo said changing the system of government would help solve the country's problems.

The government has not set aside funds for the effort to amend the Charter because it has yet to form the legal basis to insert this item in the 2006 budget, according to Relampagos.

Relampagos said that among the biggest cost items next year was the implementation of the long-awaited salary increase for government employees.

The government is proposing an 8-percent increase, equivalent to at least P500 in additional monthly take home pay.

Relampagos said a key component of the 2006 budget was the President's energy conservation measure to cut the government's fuel and electricity bills.

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BPI's TULONG SA PINOY:

A Landmark Project Aimed at Alleviating Poverty Through Micro-Entrepreneurship

Poverty has been one of the major ills that continue to plague the country. Efforts to alleviate poverty have been implemented by the government and well-meaning private organizations in the past–but these were not enough to eliminate the problem–especially in the countryside.

It has been evident that to solve this national dilemma, short-term solutions are not sufficient to control the rising number of disadvantaged Filipinos.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the country's oldest and most respected bank, under its mission program for the Expat Pinoys, rolled out last year the Expat Pinoy Learning Series on Tour, a social project that aims to impart values, financial empowerment and self-reliance to overseas Filipinos.

The National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), on the other hand, was founded in 1997 to promote the welfare of all Filipinos and Filipino-Americans through advocacies.

Finding a common ground to pursue their love of country, BPI and NaFFAA, through their ongoing programs, have agreed to jointly undertake the project to do more to help fellow Filipinos combat poverty and become self-reliant individuals.

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BPI AND NaFFAA JOIN FORCES FOR A COMMON GOAL

During the 3rd Global Networking Convention of Filipinos held last January in Cebu, NaFFAA Chairman and CEO Loida Nicolas-Lewis challenged all global Filipinos to help the country by depositing a minimum of $1,000 in a dollar account in the Philippines to spur economic growth and transform the lives of poor Filipinos.

After her speech, BPI officers immediately sought an audience with Ms. Lewis on the feasibility of turning this challenge into a concrete reality.

BPI President Aurelio Luis Montinola III, upon initial talk with Ms. Lewis, agreed to team up with NaFFAA for a worthy endeavor.

Tulong sa Pinoy (TSP) was the result of that significant call made by Ms. Lewis in Cebu and BPI's subsequent decision to pursue this mission with the Fil-Ams.

TSP was launched recently with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing at 1851 Club, which was attended by NaFFAA, BPI and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) officials.

Former BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura was on hand to witness the momentous event.

He expressed appreciation over the TSP program because micro-entrepreneurship is close to his heart.

According to Gov. Buenaventura, from 20 banks engaged in microfinancing in 1999, it now grew to 132. It was actually during the former governor's term when the BSP eased up its requirements for new banks–provided that they will orient their resources toward providing capital for small borrowers. *"I'd like to think that microfinance is my most important contribution,"* he mentioned in an interview. *"What I want to do is lay the foundation so that it will be around for the long run,"* he added.

REACHING OUT VIA MICRO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

TSP seeks to engage the support of global Filipinos in helping their kababayans back home sustain their source of livelihood or become small or micro-entrepreneurs. Under this program, for every $1,000 deposit to a TSP Patron Account, BPI will make counterpart funds available to qualified local microfinancing institutions for lending to micro-entrepreneurs like vegetable vendors, newspaper peddlers, coconut retailers, and others.

The opening of account will be processed via BPI Direct, BPI's internet and savings bank subsidiary.

Aside from extending a hand to prospective micro-entrepreneurs, the TSP Accounts will also earn interest, as it is a one-year dollar time deposit account.

BPI LAUNCHES TULONG SA PINOY IN THE U.S.

Ms. Lewis called on her fellow NaFFAA members to actively take part in this undertaking. She asked Fil-Ams to go the extra mile and help address the needs of their kababayans who are trying to fend for themselves by engaging in micro-entrepreneurship.

This BPI and NaFFAA joint project kicks off in the United States during the two-day regional conferences of all NaFFAA members, starting in Denver, Seattle and Colorado. TSP will also be introduced in nine (9) more NaFFAA regional conferences in the U.S. until December of this year.

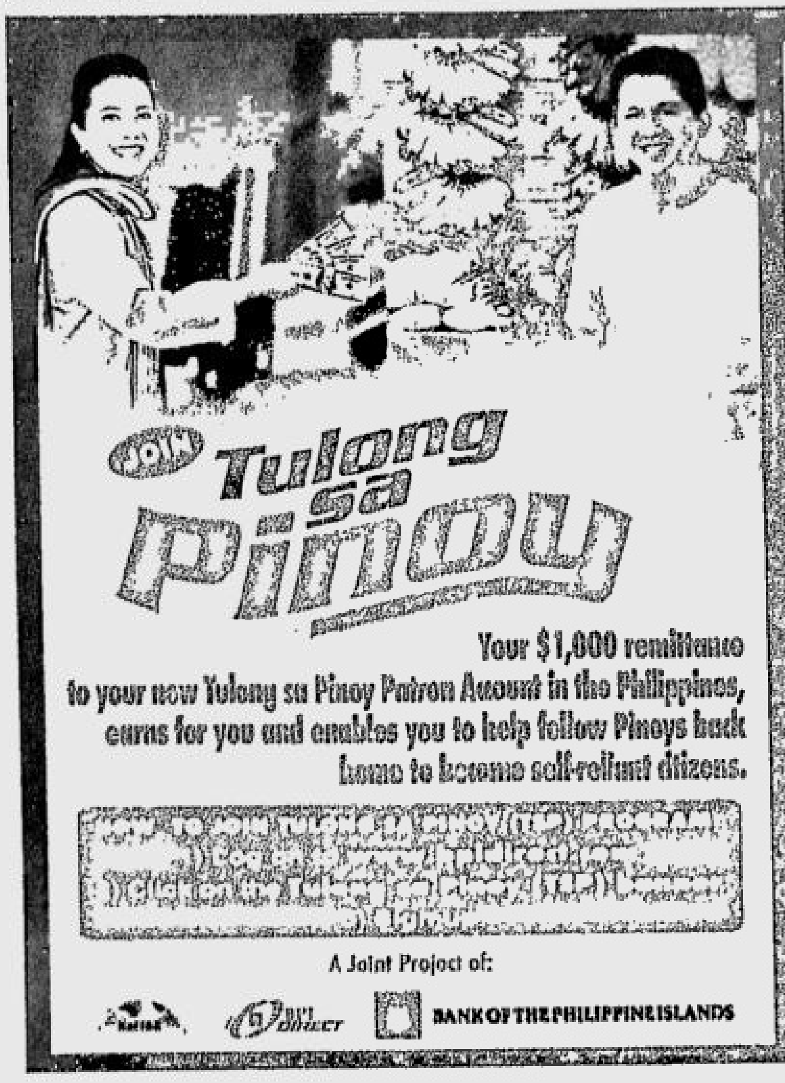
The Tulong sa Pinoy project is a great opportunity for Filipinos living abroad to do something for their kababayans and make a difference.

Active NaFFAA officer Mr. Simeon Mamaril of Portland, Oregon visited the BPI Main Branch right after the Cebu networking convention and signed up for a $1,000 dollar time deposit in the Philippines.

Rafael Buenaventura, Aurelio Montinola III and Loida Nicolas-Lewis seal the pact to help Filipinos via the Tulong sa Pinoy project.

BPI salutes the

Loida Nicolas-Lewis (seated, second from right) is assisted by BPI's John Patrick Bisera during the opening of a $1,000 account for the Tulong sa Pinoy program in the presence of NaFFAA members and BPI officials Raul Dimayuga (seated, right) and Bolet Arevalo (seated, extreme left).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- Log on to www.naffaa.org or contact NaFFAA active members within the communities in the U.S.
- Inquire about TSP thru BPI Express Remittance Centers (BERCs) in key cities around the world or the BPI International toll-free numbers; both are posted at www.bpiexpressonline.com.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US televangelist calls for assassination of Venezuelan president

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia—Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson called for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on his religious television show, calling him a "terrific danger" to the United States.

Robertson, founder of the Christian Coalition of America and a former presidential candidate, said Monday on his TV show "The 700 Club" that it was the United States' duty to stop Chavez from making Venezuela a "launching pad for communist infiltration and Muslim extremism."

Chavez has emerged as one of the most outspoken critics of US President George W. Bush, accusing the United States of conspiring to topple his government and possibly backing plots to assassinate him. US officials have called the accusations ridiculous.

"You know, I don't know about this doctrine of assassination, but if he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it," Robertson said. "It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war... and I don't think any oil shipments will stop."

Pages and a message to a Robertson spokesperson were not returned.

Venezuela is the fifth largest oil exporter and a major supplier of oil to the United States. The CIA estimates that US markets absorb almost 59 percent of Venezuela's total exports.

Venezuela's government had demanded in the past that the United States crack down on Cuban and Venezuelan "terrorists" in Florida who they say are conspiring against Chavez.

Robertson accused the United States of failing to act when Chavez was briefly overthrown in 2002.

"We have the ability to take him out, and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability," Robertson said.

"We don't need another $200 billion war to get rid of one, you know, strong-arm dictator," he continued. "It's a whole lot easier to have some of the covert operatives do the job and then get it over with." *AP*

Israeli forces storm W. Bank settlements

SANUR/HOMESH, West Bank—Israeli forces smashed their way on Tuesday into two West Bank settlements to oust radical Jews who were dug in for a last stand against evacuation after failing to foil a pullout from occupied Gaza.

Armored bulldozers burst through makeshift barriers of burning tires and rubbish at the gates to the neighboring settlements of Sanur and Homesh, heralding a showdown with hundreds of young Jewish ultra-rightists inside.

Palestinians would like Israel to pull out from all of the West Bank and Gaza but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has sworn to keep Israel's biggest West Bank settlements. Some 230,000 settlers live in the West Bank among 2.4 million Palestinians.

Ultrarightist Jews want to make the withdrawal from a pocket of the northern West Bank more painful than the generally smooth evacuation from Gaza, completed on Monday, to deter Israel from ever again ceding Jewish enclaves in occupied territory.

Despite the threat of clashes, a 5,500-strong force looked set to overcome the last two bastions of resistance to Sharon's plan to uproot settlers from some occupied land that Palestinians want for a future state.

Young rightists had hunkered down in an old stone citadel and two synagogues in Sanur, and houses in a Homesh wood after pouring into both settlements to bolster a few dozen remaining residents holding out against evacuation.

Radicals in Homesh threw bottles and lightbulbs at police trudging up narrow, steep paths. There were no serious injuries.

In Sanur, protesters prayed and chanted in the citadel and synagogues and on their roofs, watching security forces tearing down tent encampments before approaching them.

Equipped with riot batons and shields, police began breaking down doors to houses, used chainsaws to cut their way into one barricaded synagogue and swept into the other without resistance to try to persuade those inside to go before force was used.

Some settlers harangued soldiers. One confronted a woman officer, held up a portrait and said: "Here's my son, who was murdered by Palestinians, and now you want to expel his father." A teenage girl threw herself on the ground and a neighbor, holding up her small child, screamed: "You cannot force us out of the land of Israel."

Security forces also ringed Sanur's citadel and started negotiating with radical youths armed with iron rods and shields to come out of the building. *Reuters*

come to Dover Ma

QUADRIPLEGIC yachtswoman Hilary Lister of Canterbury sails her 26-foot Soling keelboat "Malin" out of the Dover marina, Aug. 23 (*See story below*) AFP

British quadriplegic to cross English Channel

LONDON—A British woman who can only move her head, eyes and mouth was aiming Tuesday to cross the English Channel and claim the record for the world's longest solo sailing trip by a quadriplegic.

Hilary Lister, 33, set sail from Dover, southeast England, at 8:30 a.m. (0730 GMT), bound for the French port of Calais, hoping to become the first person with the degenerative condition to conquer the busy shipping route.

"I am feeling strangely calm now I am in the boat," said Lister, who has battled with the worsening medical condition since she was a teenager.

"I was quite nervous earlier on but I am happy now I am in the boat," she said just minutes before casting off.

A difficult tide delayed Lister's planned start time by two and a half hours, but she hoped to make the voyage in five-to-seven hours.

Asked if she was feeling confident of success, Lister told AFP: "Absolutely. I am too bloody minded to give up, too obstinate." A spokesperson said the weather conditions for the trip were good, with the sun pushing through the clouds and a light breeze.

Although the Channel is more than 35 km wide, Lister said she would have to make a kind of triangle-shaped journey, pushing the total distance to about 30 to 35 miles.

LISTER

Without the use of her arms or legs, she is using a specially designed vessel—a 7.9-meter Soling keelboat, christened Malin—which is steered by a so-called "sip and puff" method.

Lister sucks up or blows down two straws—one attached to the tiller and the other controlling both of the sails—to guide the boat forward.

"Physically it is not that demanding, it is literally tiny amounts of breath, so I will be able to drink water and eat chocolate while I am going along," she said, speaking again to AFP on Monday.

"But mentally is going to be the telling thing." Lister, who lives with her husband Clifford, 47, in Canterbury near to the coast, started sailing in 2003 and said the sport had given her fresh hope at a time when she had been tempted to end her suffering. *AFP*

Brad, Jennifer officially split

LOS ANGELES—Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston are now officially divorced, and neither will marry again, for a few weeks anyway, legal documents showed Monday.

Judge Jill Robbins of Los Angeles Superior Court signed the divorce papers Friday, but they don't take effect until Oct. 2—at which time either actor may remarry.

The documents did not reveal how their possessions will be divided.

Hollywood hunk Pitt, 41, is reported to have begun a relationship with high-octane actress Angelina Jolie, although neither has confirmed it.

Pitt and Aniston, 36, were married in a lavish seaside ceremony in Malibu, north of Los Angeles, in June 2000, after meeting on a blind date in 1998.

For four and a half years they were Hollywood's leading couple—blond, beautiful, famous and rich.

Aniston, the former star of the television series "Friends," filed for divorce March 25, after the two announced a separation in January. She has kept mum about why.

Media rumors circulated that Pitt had already begun an affair with Jolie, whom he met while co-starring in the action comedy "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." Soon after their separation, photos surfaced showing Pitt vacationing with Jolie, 30, and her son. "I can't say it was one of the highlights of my year," Aniston said. *AFP*

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PTLE	Every FRI 6pm MKT, 12 6pm MLA	10 1 QC
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BTicino, a leading European brand of electrical wiring devices and accessories, first launched this golf event in 2000. Through this annual event, BTicino fosters sports, friendship and goodwill, aside from greatly acknowledging the continuing product support of key Architects, Electrical Engineers and Contractors in the industry. This year's event will coincide with the introduction of BTicino Philippines, Inc.'s incoming Managing Director, Dario Tunesi, from BTicino Italy.

Last year's tournament was held at the Manila Golf Club. Architects Gene Flancia was Overall Champion with a net 69. Class Champions were: Group A – Rommel Martinez (gross 87, net 70), Mike Peña (gross 79, net 71) and Kado Gutierrez (gross 84, net 71), Group B – Arnel Rey-Matias (gross 96, net 71), Mario Nabor (gross 100, net 71), and Eymard Agbing (gross 95, net 72); and Group C – Randy Banzon (gross 105, net 71), Max Cacapit (gross 105, net 72) and Dick Balagtas (gross 103, net 74).

This year's game is expected to be even more challenging with more than a hundred players competing under the system 36 format.

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Iraq fails anew to complete constitution

BAGHDAD—In another dramatic last-minute standoff, Iraqi leaders put off a vote on a draft constitution late Monday, adjourning parliament at a midnight deadline in a bid for three more days to win over the Sunni Arab minority whose support is key to stopping the insurgency.

The Shiite-Kurdish bloc that submitted the draft constitution expressed optimism that a deal was still possible within a few days. But top Sunni Arab leaders said flatly that compromise was far off.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the major issues blocking a deal were federalism, purging the Baath Party and the issue of whether by majority or two-thirds some of the officers of the assembly should be elected.

But Saleh al-Mutlaq, one of four top Sunni Arab negotiators, said more than 20 issues still divide the sides. Apart from federalism and power-sharing, he cited how the constitution spoke of Iraq's national identity as "part of the Islamic world" rather than the Arab world—a concession to the non-Arab Kurds.

"This constitution is full of land mines that would explode on Iraqis. This constitution will divide the country," Al-Mutlaq said.

The numerous remaining issues referred to by Al-Mutlaq cast doubt whether the Iraqis would be able to finish the document within a few days since the various groups have widely differing positions. Repeated delays are a deep embarrassment for the Bush administration at a time of growing doubts within the United States over the mission in Iraq.

The US military said two US soldiers from Task Force Liberty were killed Monday by a roadside bomb during a combat patrol north of Baghdad, and two more soldiers died Sunday when their vehicle overturned during a military operation near Tal Afar.

At least 1,870 US troops have died since the Iraq war started in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

President George W. Bush defended the war Monday, asserting that "a policy of retreat and isolation will not bring us safety" from terrorism.

Washington had applied enormous pressure on the Iraqis to meet the original Aug. 15 deadline but parliament instead had to grant a week's extension, which they again failed to meet.

The Shiite-Kurdish draft would fundamentally transform Iraq from the highly centralized state of Saddam Hussein into a loose federation of Kurds, Shiites and Sunni Arabs. The Sunnis—who dominated Iraqi society under Saddam—oppose that decentralization, fearing it would cut them out of the country's oil wealth and leave them powerless.

On the issue of Islam, al-Mutlaq said Sunni Arabs objected to the draft because it called Iraq an Islamic country, noting that "the Arabs are part of the Arab nation."

The text also declares both Arabic and Kurdish as official languages, bringing Kurdish to an equal status nationwide.

In a concession to secular-minded Iraqis, the draft declares that Islam is "a main source" of legislation, not "the" main one as initially pushed by religious parties. The draft states that no law may contradict Islamic and democratic standards or "the essential rights and freedoms mentioned in this constitution."

The draft "guarantees the Islamic identity of the Iraqi people" but also "guarantees all religious rights" and states that all Iraqis "are free within their ideology and the practice of their ideological practices."

Khalilzad told CNN that the constitution is trying to reconcile what Islamic politicians and secular leaders want.

"What the text says is that Islam is not the source, but a source of laws," said Khalilzad, who previously served as the top American envoy to Afghanistan.

"And in addition it states that no law can be against the provisions of Islam," he said. "And that's what the constitution of Afghanistan stated and of many progressive Islamic countries state."

The Shiite-Kurdish faction finished the draft on Monday and formally submitted it to parliament as the lawmakers convened minutes before a midnight deadline. But the negotiators quickly deferred a vote on the draft because of the fierce Sunni Arab resistance. *AP*

Ukraine observes 14th independence anniversary

FOURTEEN years ago, on Aug. 24, the Ukrainian Verhovna Rada (National Parliament) adopted the Act of Independence. This was ratified and confirmed during the succeeding Ukrainian referendum.

Ukraine is now a free and democratic state with President Victor Yushenko as the head of state.

Its land area is 603,700 sq. km which is of the same size as Spain or France, and its capital is the beautiful city of Kiev.

With a population of around 50 million, it is bounded on the north by Belarus, on the southwest, by Hungary and Romania, on the west by Poland and Slovakia and on the south by the famous Black Sea.

Its gross domestic product (GDP) per year is $129.9 billion and its GDP per capita is $2,500. Its currency is Hyrvnia (US$1 = 3.5 Hyrvnia).

Ukraine is famous for its industrial products like air crafts missile, trucks, machinery, chemical and oil products and agricultural products like grains, sugar, beets and sunflower seeds.

The non-resident ambassador of Ukraine to the Philippines is Yuriy Kostenko, and Oscar C. de Venecia is the honorary consul general and past dean of the Consular Corps of the Philippines.

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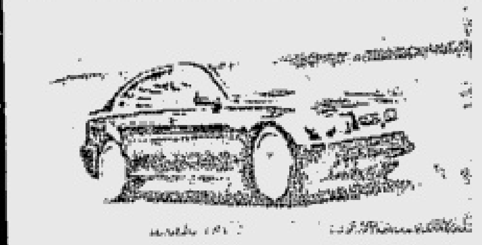

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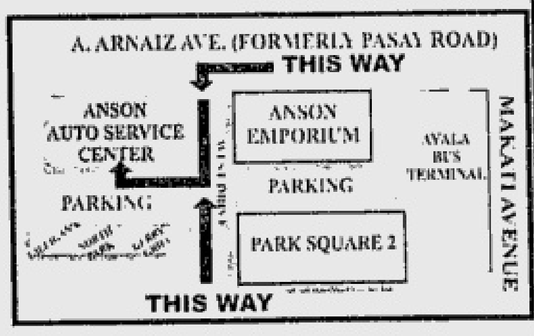

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August 9, 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 16, s-2005

TO : ALL ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES (PRO's), PHILHEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to PhilHealth Policies on NSD Package for the Reimbursement of Drugs, Medicines & Supplies, etc.

PhilHealth Circular 19, s-2004 states that accredited hospitals are obliged to cover room and board, drugs and medicines, diagnostics, operating room fee and all other necessary care within the amount of the package (P2,500.00) benefit limit for the facility but excluding the P2,000.00 for professional fee for a total package rate of P4,500.00 per Normal Spontaneous Delivery (NSD).

There are circumstances, however, where patients are asked to buy drugs/medicines and supplies or engage other services of other facilities. In such cases, and where the providers' claim for facility charges is less than the benefit package, reimbursement to member will be allowed subject to the following conditions:

1. The accredited hospital cannot provide the above items and other necessary services covered by the package.
2. The reimbursement will depend on the actual cost but should not be higher than the difference between the claim of the facility and the P2,5000.00 package.
3. The medicines, diagnostics, supplies and other necessary services were used for NSD during the confinement.
4. The accredited health facility acknowledges that the cost of the medicines, diagnostics, and all other necessary services it provided was less than the benefit package of P2,500.00 (for hospital charges).
5. Official receipts and other documentation of the purchases are submitted.

The reimbursements for the difference shall be in accordance with existing rules on claims payment.

This Circular does not preclude the facilities' obligation to provide for all the necessary services for NSD Package enumerated above. Compliance with PhilHealth Circular 19, s-2004 particularly the provision of drugs/medicines, and supplies shall be continuously monitored by PhilHealth's Regional Offices and such shall be among the basis for the renewal of accreditation.

This Circular shall be applicable for all claims received starting September 1, 2005 and claims currently in process except those already approved for payment.

Please be guided accordingly.

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WORLDBRIEFS

Iraq assassination try

BAGHDAD—Iraq's Environment Minister Narmin Othma caped an assassination attempt when gunmen attacked h convoy north of Baghdad wounding three bodyguards, s run Iraqiya Television reported on Tuesday. The station d not say when the minister was attacked but added that th shooting occurred south of the oil rich city of Kirkuk, 290 north of Baghdad. "This is a cowardly act that will not pr me from carrying my duties," the station quoted Othman Kurd, as saying. Othman belongs to President Jalal Talat Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Rocket attack suspect

AMMAN—Jordan said it has arrested a Syrian national it pects is the mastermind behind a rocket attack last week geting US warships in the Red Sea port of Aqaba. "The s rity forces have succeeded in dismantling a group linked terrorist network coming from Iraq to carry out this crim arrested the main accused, a Syrian, Mohammed Hassar dallah al-Sehli," said an official statement carried on Jord an television late Monday. Three rockets were fired in Aq on Friday, missing two US warships docked in the port b one hit a warehouse killing a Jordanian soldier while ano landed across the border in Israel. The attack was claime a group linked to al-Qaida and prompted the United State advise its nationals in Jordan to exercise caution. Jordan the Syrian and three other suspects cased their targets b tween Aug. 6 and 18 after receiving orders from a group Iraq to carry out an attack in Aqaba, a Jordan's only seap as well as a diving and beach resort.

China-Russia war games

SHANGHAI—Nearly 9,000 Russian and Chinese troops l gan a mock assault on the beaches of northern China Tue for the final stage of unprecedented joint war games betw the two former Cold War rivals. Russia's Defense Ministe Sergei Ivanov was headed to the Chinese city of Qingdao where he planned to watch soldiers stage an amphibious landing and simulate a battle to capture a coastal area, o Wednesday and Thursday, the ITAR-Tass news agency re ported from Moscow. The live-fire exercise, dubbed "Pea Mission 2005," involves about 7,000 Chinese troops and 1,800 Russians, along with state-of-the-art warships, wa planes and amphibious tanks. Operations began with a s lated naval blockade off the coast of the Shandong Penin in the Yellow Sea, southeast of Beijing, China's official Xi News Agency reported. Chinese state television showed and warplanes firing missiles and rockets while military sic blared from shipboard speakers. Chinese participants cluded three destroyers, three frigates and one submari along with naval aircraft, Xinhua said. They were joined anti-submarine vessel, missile destroyer, helicopters an surveillance plane from the Russian navy, it said.

Malaysia eyes astronaut in 200

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's $25-million space progra on track and 894 candidates will begin a series of rigoro tests this week to select the astronaut who will blast into space in 2007, officials said Tuesday. National Space Ag director general Mazlan Othman said the first test would held in Kuantan on Malaysia's east coast on Saturday, w candidates challenged to complete a 3.5-km run in 20 m utes. Similar tests will be held in five other locations nat wide in September to put the remaining hopefuls throug their paces, she said. Anyone who is aged over 21 and h university degree or a professional pilot's license can ap become Malaysia's first man or woman in space. Mazlan 11,275 candidates registered when applications opened December 2003 but many were eliminated because they failed to meet the basic conditions. The oldest applicant 50-year-old ex-air force officer.

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Natya Nusantara cultural carnival at the rade on Sunday marked the launch of the Bambang Yudhoyono. THE JAKARTA POST/ANN

Pope wins praise from Jews, respect from Muslims

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI won praise from Jews and respect from some Muslims for his blunt warnings about the rise of anti-Semitism and terrorism during his first foreign trip as pope—issues that are likely to define his papacy.

Commentators also applauded Benedict on Monday for not hedging his words during his four-day visit to Cologne, Germany, for World Youth Day—a tactic Germany's Handelsblatt daily said may make his job as a peacemaker more difficult but showed his priorities.

"Apparently, he wants to leave a lot untouched and concentrate in office on the essentials," the newspaper said.

The German-born Benedict became the second pontiff in history to enter a synagogue when he told Jewish leaders on Friday in Cologne that he would continue work started by Pope John Paul II to improve Catholic-Jewish relations.

Benedict, who served in the Hitler Youth during World War II, also condemned the "insane racist ideology" that inspired the Holocaust, and warned of the new rise of anti-Semitism—comments that drew praise from Jewish leaders around the world.

"The very symbol of your presence on the pulpit of Northern Europe's oldest synagogue—destroyed by some of your countrymen under the influence of a murderous and morally bankrupt regime, and rebuilt by the hopes of a saving remnant—demonstrates to the world that we can look to the future without erasing the past," the head of the New York-based Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, wrote in a letter to the Pope.

Benedict didn't break any new ground with his synagogue comments, repeating previous church positions on the shared spiritual heritage of Christians and Jews.

He did, however, seem to harden his stance on terrorism when he spoke to representatives of Germany's Muslim community a day later. He warned terrorism risked exposing the world "to the darkness of a new barbarism," and urged them to join Christians in fighting terrorism.

"Finally a pope who, before a Muslim delegation, condemns Islamic-rooted terrorism without exception," Italy's leading Islamic commentator, Magdi Allam, wrote in the Corriere della Sera daily, saying the Pope's speech amounted to a "new season" in Christian-Muslim relations.

The Pope had previously been cautious about making any links between terrorism and Islam, rejecting the idea that the world faced a "clash of civilizations" and reportedly overruling an aide who wanted to brand the deadly July 7 London bombings as anti-Christian. *AP*

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Suspicions

EDITORIAL

COLUMNIST Lito Banayo blames the INQUIRER, in a way, for the collapse of reconciliation talks between the administration and former President Estrada. Banayo suggests that the INQUIRER banner last Saturday infuriated Estrada and El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde. Whether this is true or not, instead of dying down, the idea that some sort of "unity government" can be forged refuses to die. Both sides continue to nibble at the bait.

The proposal, as articulated by Velarde, consists of a majority of Cabinet positions going to the Estrada-led opposition (specifically, 60 percent of Cabinet portfolios) as a sign of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "sincerity"; amending the Constitution to permit early presidential elections in 2007, effectively pre-terminating the President's term; lifting the limitations on successive terms of elective officials; and "easing some restrictive economic provisions."

The proposal would allow the President to find a graceful exit. It would accord the Estrada-led opposition what it most wants: access to the levers of power. It would allow Estrada to proclaim his proposals for constitutional reform have been vindicated. And it would allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to free herself from the iron grip of the Lakas-CMD, a party that has never liked her, and from the influence of former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, who want a different kind of constitutional change from what both Ms Arroyo and Estrada have espoused in the past.

Some civil society groups claim the President wants to announce the formation of a coalition government by this weekend, which is why immense pressure has supposedly been exerted on congressmen regarding the impeachment complaint. Malacañang, of course, denies all this, but what is certain is that the Velarde proposal has put a new wrinkle into the political scheme of things.

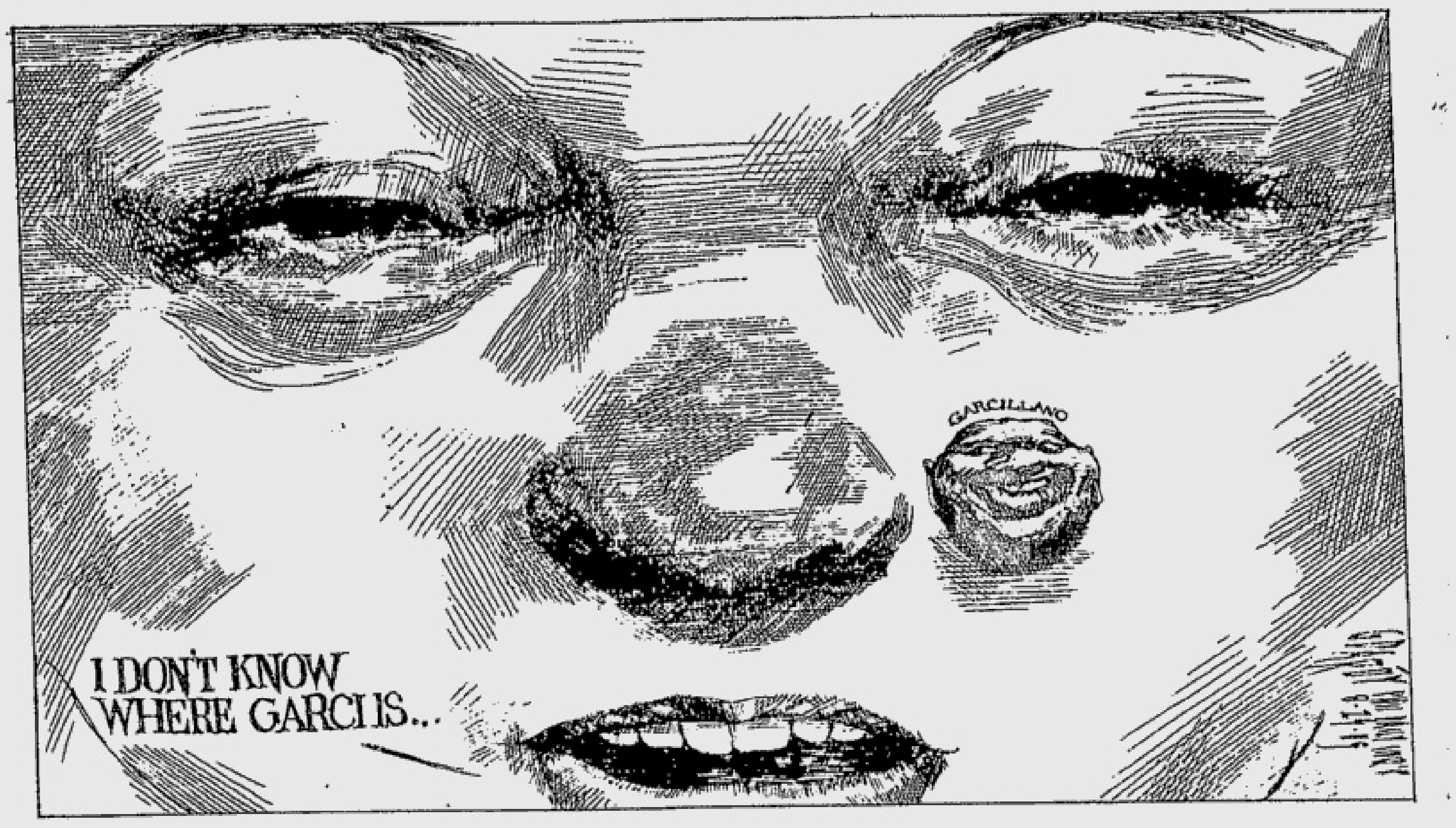
Politically, it is understandable for the Estrada camp to grasp at whatever straw is being offered. It may even be understandable for the President's people to be seen trying to work out a way to secure her political future while providing her more leeway by finding a new set of allies to replace the civil society forces that have abandoned her. However, the Velarde plan indicates that both sides will stop at nothing to get what they want.

What Estrada wants is an end to his detention and a chance to go home. The President wants to avoid, quite obviously, impeachment, with all the uncertainties inherent in the process. This betrays a fundamental insecurity about the process which may suggest a guilty conscience. After all, political observers have pointed out how the opposition's handling of the impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives has verged on ineptitude. And yet, despite the inability of the opposition in the House either to secure signatures or come up with a coherent case, the President still fears for her political life.

If the Velarde proposal reveals anything it is how thoroughly all sides distrust the President. The idea that the proposal can be made, and taken seriously, shows that in the eyes of those trying to broker such a deal, the President has neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies. Only her interests are permanent, and when it comes to those, apparently the guiding principle of all other politicians is to be permanently on their guard. The proposal presumes that the President is willing to turn her back on her public pronouncements on Charter change; that she is prepared to turn her back on whatever meaning Edsa II has for her; that she is quite happy to accommodate in her government those expelled from government for incompetence and abusing the public purse; and that her challenge to be impeached was an empty one.

A trial balloon such as Velarde's has a limited life. If an ironclad deal isn't reached very soon, it will have to be publicly rejected by both sides to prevent a revolt by the allies of both sides. Lakas-CMD, Ramos and De Venecia must be alarmed by such talk. Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has already reacted angrily to it. The tenuous alliances within the opposition will be hard-pressed to survive an extended Estrada sellout that is there for all the world to see. And the civil society busybodies left out in the cold will be tempted to revive their alliance with a Left, which could be rendered irrelevant by an Arroyo-Estrada alliance.

What a mess.


GARCILLANO
I DON'T KNOW WHERE GARCI IS...

No such thing as 'con-ass' in Constitution

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A SIGN of the fear and desperation of President Macapagal-Arroyo is that she is trying to make deals right and left with people who can help her survive politically. She is offering a deal to former President Joseph Estrada, the man she kicked out of office and from whom she stole half of his presidential term. She is also dangling an offer to the Marcoses to bury the former president at, of all places, Libingan ng mga Bayani. Former President Fidel Ramos is already in her corner in exchange for her support for a shift to a parliamentary system of government to make it possible for him to return to power as prime minister. Marcos, Ramos, Estrada and Macapagal-Arroyo—four presidents banding together for their own selfish interests and like China, we will have our own Gang of Four.

We Filipinos have a term for it: *"kapit sa patalim."* The desperate will do anything, even hang on to a sharp knife, to survive. Like Faustus, he or she will make a pact with the devil to get what he or she wants.

GMA seems to be making deals with anybody willing to be bought, paying congressmen to vote against impeachment, bribing witnesses to lie, hiding witnesses who could reveal things that would damn her, and committing other illegal acts such as disbursing funds for purposes for which they were not appropriated by Congress. Has she already made bribery, cheating and lying official policies of government? I hope not, but it is beginning to look more and more like that.

Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin revealed that shortly before the elections, she released funds intended for the purchase of fertilizers to congressmen, including those from Metro Manila and other urban areas where there are no farms to fertilize. Those fertilizer funds, however, were really intended to fertilize not farms but pockets.

The new fund releases from the Road Users' Tax, on the other hand, are intended not for the construction or repair of roads but to run over the impeachment complaint by the administration's congressional railroad. Proof is that after anti-impeachment congressmen got their shares, GMA suddenly stopped further releases so that pro-impeachment lawmakers won't get any.

The bankrupt government is being bankrupted even more by huge payoffs to buy GMA's survival. Taxes from the EVAT, not yet being collected now, are already being spent. As the Hyatt 10 said, money, patronage, appointments, contracts, etc. are not spared just to insure her survival. No position on earth is worth all that much dirt.

* * *

An indication of what will happen to us once we have a parliamentary form of government is the abuse that the House of Representatives is already committing. Knowing that the Senate is against changing the Constitution through a constituent assembly, the House went ahead and passed a resolution by itself, minus the Senate, to form a constituent assembly to change the Constitution. This despite the fact that opinion polls show that eight out of every 10 Filipinos don't want to amend the Constitution or have a parliamentary government.

We are a representative democracy and congressmen are elected to represent their districts in the House. They are supposed to follow the wishes of their constituents who are their employers. But look at what they're doing. They are disobeying their constituents and pushing Charter change just because of the ambition of their leader who wants to become prime minister by hook or by crook because he knows he cannot be elected president.

The members of the new Parliament will be the same congressmen or their relatives. So you can see what they will do in a unitary legislature where there is no Senate to check their abuses, where they, the members of parliament and not the people, will elect the head of government, the prime minister, and where even the members of the Cabinet will come from among the MPs. Thus, there will be no balance of powers among the executive, legislative and judicial branches as we have now. The people will be at the mercy of the party in power. If our honorable representatives can commit these abuses in a system where there is a balance of power, imagine what they can do when there is none.

* * *

In the first place, there is no such thing as a "constituent assembly" in the Constitution. There was one in the 1935 Constitution but none in the present one. How can the House convene a constituent assembly when it is not authorized by the Charter?

It shows that the members of the House—not the Speaker, not the members, not even the President who also endorsed a con-ass—read the Constitution. All except Rep. Hermilando Mandanas who also told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday what the other members have also not read: that any individual legislator can propose amendments to the Constitution and that he, in fact, has already filed one.

He said, however, that Charter change should be put in the back burner as the time is not right for it. This is the worst time for Charter change, Mandanas said, because we are financially and politically unstable. The politicians are only looking out for themselves, not the people, and therefore would change the Constitution for their own benefit.

In spite of the clear opposition of the nation against Charter change, it is still possible that the present gang in the House may be able to change it. In that case, the only way to stop them, short of a revolution, is to vote against the new Charter in the plebiscite. Vote No.

The last word

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S enough to make me believe my friend Pancho Lara's theory about why people who cannot abide GMA are dying, the latest of whom is Capt. Rene Jarque: *"Yamot na yan."* I can believe it. Truly, TV should issue a warning on news programs, the way the health department issues a warning on cigarette packs, that watching GMA can be hazardous to health. She is a vexation to the spirit.

The last time somebody I knew and liked died, who was Raul Roco, I revised my original question about why God made it a point to remove from us only our artists and keep for us only our politicians. That was in reference to the fact that our artists were dying like flies, notably in 2002 and 2004 (I counted around a dozen in the first and around 10 in the second), while our politicians continued to live also like flies. But after Roco died, I had to ask why God made it a point to remove from us only our decent politicians and keep for us our rotten ones.

With Rene Jarque dying on the heels of Roco, I have to revise my question again. Why does God make it a point to remove from us our good politicians and good soldiers and keep for us only our rotten politicians and equally rotten generals?

Outside of the military, not too many people knew Rene Jarque. The one most Filipinos know is his father, Gen. Raymundo Jarque, who shocked Fidel Ramos' government in October 1995 by joining the NPA after being the head of the Negros Island Command. The elder Jarque despaired of reforms ever happening in the AFP and indeed in government itself—Ramos had much to do with the corruption in both, something that isn't cured, or forgotten, by Charter change—he took to the hills and sought his solution there. Alas, he didn't find it there either. He came back to the fold of the law a few years later, but never went back to the fold of lawlessness in the AFP.

The son lived up to the measure of the father. Rene never got past captain for reasons that had nothing to do with lack of ability or integrity. Quite the opposite: He never got past captain because he possessed both in great quantities. He it was who raised the loudest voice to condemn the humongous corruption in the AFP. For which he was excoriated and reviled by his colleagues, though it is hard to use that word to describe them since they were never at par with him. Rene resigned from the military in 1998, a polite way of saying he was forced out of it by ostracism. They had to get him out; his very existence arraigned theirs. His honesty reflected on their venality, his scruples reflected on their unscrupulousness, his willingness to go it alone reflected on their ungodly camaraderie.

No one has changed the face of the military for me personally, one that always took on the aspect of grinning torturer and wreaker of mayhem, more than Rene. He was a good writer, apart from being a good soldier, and used his pen as much as his sword to fight the worst enemy the military ever had, which was itself. But what struck me most was his infinite humility. You could not find anyone, military or civilian, who spoke his truth more gently. He was never righteous, he was just right. You know people speak the truth when they are humble: Truth cannot inhabit a prideful body, or be spewed by a boastful mouth. Rene was a quiet man, which is why his truth now rings more loudly than the pealing of the bells.

My heart goes out to him, I feel a strong kinship with him. I do know a thing or two about what it means to be maligned and kept in the fringes of things for telling your truth. I felt that way when I got deluged by angry letters for expressing a view contrary to George W. Bush's shortly after 9/11, and for expressing a view contrary to GMA's for close to four years. I have been since vindicated in both cases. I am certain that Rene will, too, in the cause he has suffered much for. One is tempted to rue that he won't be around to see it. But then, who knows? If you're Christian, you have the certainty of knowing he will be there to reap the accolades. If you're just a plain human being, you have the consolation of knowing his family will.

I didn't know Rene had been forced into exile in Jakarta by financial need. I hadn't seen him for a while. I do know, or suspect, that the greatest pain inflicted on him was not the impoverishment being driven out of the institution he loved caused him, it was the very fact of having to leave the institution he loved. Rene loved the profession, he loved being a soldier. He professed as much every opportunity he got. He was a soldier, he never stopped being a soldier. So at least in the finest tradition of being one, the one that, as he himself put it, had to do with "duty, honor, country." He became the finest example of what a soldier is, or can be, by showing he had become the exception rather than the rule in today's AFP. To the end of his days, he remained duty-bound, honorable and patriotic.

Rene died last Friday at 40. But he lived longer and more fully than most others twice his age. He will be remembered fondly long after his superiors—in name, not in spirit; they will never be his betters—will have been forgotten, or reviled. I will not express the hope that the hypocritical crooks from the military and the civilian government who attend his wake get to be hit by lightning where they stand, or sit, lest his wake be attended only by his family and close friends. I will only recall some words he wrote to fellow West Pointers last year to remind them of what they lost, and what they can regain if they would only exert themselves to become a little more like him: a soldier.

I cede tomorrow's column to him. He will have his last words. He will have the last word. (*Tomorrow: Rene Jarque's letter to fellow West Pointers.*)

Surviving the oil crisis

COMMENTARY

Alvin A. Mejia
Institute on Church and Social Issues

OIL is a basic commodity in modern society. It literally runs our lives. Come to think of it, it controls our lives through its price. With oil prices rising to new heights and as global demand grows faster than global oil production, it's about time we aggressively promoted alternative energy resources to break us free from the shackles of oil.

We are witnessing aggressive bullish movements in oil prices. The New York contract for light sweet crude oil closed at $66.80 per barrel last Aug. 12. Oil traded below the $50 per barrel mark a year ago. Oil firms in the Philippines have continuously increased the prices of their petroleum products and we expect them to move together with the bullish world market. We shouldn't be surprised to see a domino effect on the prices of food, transportation and electricity soon.

In the midst of the current oil crisis, President Macapagal-Arroyo calls on every Filipino to conserve energy and keep in mind the survival of the nation. Government institutions are ordered to cut their energy consumption and the public is encouraged to use bicycles or walk to get to their destinations.

We agree that these are necessary measures to help us survive this particular wave of the impending energy crisis. But our position in this global trial could have been much better if had we been able to maximize the development of our renewable energy resources. Had we been keen on putting up the foundations to do so, we could have been a major player in the world of renewable energy generation. Which is actually part of the Philippine Energy Plan of the Department of Energy.

We aim to achieve energy independence and reach the 60-percent self-sufficiency level by the year 2010 and increase our renewable energy-based capacity by 100 percent in 10 years. The Philippines also aims to be the world's leader in geothermal energy as well as the largest wind power producer in the South East Asian region. Solar, hydro, biomass and wind energy resources are now aggressively being developed throughout the country and we need all the funding we can get to support the development of these projects.

Funding from the Clean Development Mechanism will provide a big boost to the efforts to realize these projects. This is one of the global cooperation schemes established by the Kyoto Protocol, which aims to mitigate the process of climate change and help developing countries attain sustainable development. Participating industrialized countries, which are major contributors of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that speed up the global warming process, have agreed to achieve a 5.2 percent reduction of their 1990s emission levels to be realized in the 2008-2012 commitment period. Under the CDM framework, GHG emission-reduction activities such as the development of renewable energy projects can be implemented anywhere in the world by these industrialized countries. The CDM erases the geographical boundaries in terms of fulfilling GHG reduction commitments for the industrialized countries and allows the channeling of funds to developing countries where putting up these projects is more cost-efficient.

We have gone far in terms of establishing the Clean Development Mechanism here in the Philippines. Efforts toward capacity building are being done, projects are being constructed and institutional foundations are being laid down. However, the rules and regulations for the national approval process for the CDM authority have not been promulgated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). We cannot fully establish the CDM in the Philippines without a framework of approval for projects which could come under the CDM. The absence of this framework brings uncertainty and impairs our national capacity to compete with other countries which are now leaving us behind.

The Philippines, like many other developing countries, is inclined toward developing small-scale (SSC) renewable energy projects since there are not too many options open for us. The CDM defines small-scale projects as those which generate less than 15 MW of energy. These SSC projects can finally bring power to those areas which are too far to be reached by the country's electricity grids since they are easier to set-up. However, it is difficult for the proponents of these SSC projects to get funding from banks and ordinary investors because of their size and the low credit rating of the proponents. These projects need to be put under the CDM but uncertainty lurks as the foundations for the mechanism have not been laid.

The CDM is a tool we can use to help our environment, attain sustainable development and achieve energy independence. We have the potential to be a major player in the world of CDM and renewable energy. We have to be creative in forming long-run survival strategies amid this oil crisis. We urge the promulgation of the national approval process for the CDM national authority. It is a matter of national survival.

Where do we go after impeachment?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FRIENDS connected with the Black&White Movement wish to correct reports that there were only about 100 participants at the recent founding assembly last Sunday. Organizers say that by their own count, there were more than 550 people who took part in the whole-day activity, representing more than 75 groups "with about as many different views" on what to do regarding the "Gloriagate" crisis and scenarios for the future.

Leah Navarro, who was part of the organizing committee, writes friends that a remarkable thing about the gathering was "there were no histrionics, and the key word of the day was 'listen.'"

In a report, Luz Rimban of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism wrote that "black and white is the new yellow," at least for the segment of the middle class, the erstwhile "Edsa forces," who gathered at La Salle. While impeachment seems to be the preferred option of many, said Rimbin, leaders were worried that the impeachment case against the President seemed to be headed for an early demise.

"*Saan tayo pupunta pagkatapos pag wala na yung impeachment complaint?* (Where do we go if the impeachment complaint is voted down?)," Rimban quotes former Education Secretary and Liberal Party leader Florencio "Butch" Abad. "What path do people take once the impeachment option is slammed shut in their faces?"

Where to now, indeed?

* * *

THE HUBBY and I, with our friend Ric Ramos and his daughter Bea, were in Mindoro over the weekend, to take a look at the accomplishments of the Calapan Waterworks Corp.

We had originally planned the trip for the other weekend, but a typhoon was passing through Northern Luzon and my husband thought it might be too dangerous to make the crossing from Batangas. It turns out that he thought the crossing would still be made via those old wooden *batels* which he took when he was a child, on the way to his father's ranch in Abra de Ilog. But our decision to postpone the trip was fortuitous as the Coast Guard had indeed deemed sea travel too dangerous for passenger craft.

Last Saturday dawned clear as we drove from our Antipolo home to Ric's place in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. After breakfast prepared by Ric's wife EJ, we proceeded to Batangas City, making it in just over an hour. We raced on foot from the parking lot at the pier because Ric wanted to catch the 8 a.m. trip. Entering the terminal, we were assaulted by shouts from the folks at the counter, competing for passengers not just for Calapan but also for Puerto Galera. Why is it that we need to turn every public facility into a *palengke*?

* * *

STILL, despite the aggravation, it was interesting watching the comings and goings of passengers and cargo. Ric says "Roro" (roll-on, roll-off vessels) make the crossing to and from Calapan every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day.

On the highway from the Calapan pier is a billboard pointing the way, on one side, to the city center, the provincial capitol and other local attractions. On the other side of the billboard, an arrow points to "Roxas, Boracay, Kalibo, Iloilo," a sign that the much-vaunted "Strong Republic Nautical Highway" is very much a reality.

If one wanted to, we were told, one could indeed drive all the way from Luzon to Mindanao, defying our archipelagic limitations. After the Roro docks in Calapan, one can drive southwards to Roxas town, catching another Roro ferry that will bring one to either Kalibo or Caticlan, the jump-off point for the vacationer's paradise of Boracay. If one wishes to follow the "nautical highway" to Mindanao, one can drive from Kalibo to Iloilo, board the Roro to Bacolod, motor on to San Carlos City and make the crossing to Cebu and thence board another Roro to either Cagayan de Oro or Surigao.

Fascinated by tales of the "nautical highway," the hubby and I resolved to save up enough money to make the trip from Luzon to Mindanao—in the not-too-distant future, we hope.

* * *

FROM CALAPAN we made the rough and tumble drive through a road that was paved in parts, and dusty and pockmarked in others, to Puerto Galera.

We stayed overnight at a relatively new resort called Puerto Nirvana, near the town proper, which started out as a vacation home of owner Romy Roxas, until he decided to expand the facilities to include a hotel building and dormitory-type accommodations. We called it a night fairly early, after straightening out the kinks in our muscles from the long drive with a massage.

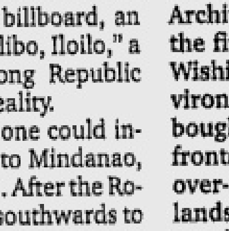
Puerto Galera may have lost much of its cachet among the leisure set, but it remains an attractive destination. Sea-going vessels, from small speed boats to breathtaking yachts, can still be found docked at the Puerto Galera Yacht Club. Resorts and dive centers—from fairly high-end facilities to smaller places built helter-skelter to the very edge of the beach line—were still doing brisk business even during this "low" season.

But I also think Puerto Galera has much to thank the family of the late National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin, who was one of the first to discover the wonders of the place. Wishing to preserve the natural beauty and environment of Puerto Galera, the Locsins bought islands with some of the best beach fronts, if only to protect them from the sort of over-development that has blighted other islands. The public is still free to use the beaches on these private islands, and indeed there were many tourists going snorkeling off the Locsin-owned White Beach, where some of the best coral formations are found.

Indeed, where political will is too weak to fend off careless developers, the private sector will have to step in. Would that other similarly beautiful but endangered environments in our country had guardians like the Locsins!

Cosmetic surgery in 1675

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

EXAMINING our restaurant bill on a night out with friends, I noticed that the orders of food and drink came with short descriptions of people. I looked around our table and realized that it was the way our waiter remembered who ordered what.

This would not have been a problem if he merely described the color or print of our clothes, but one description said "pat girl" (i.e., fat girl). Restraining my laughter drew attention to the bill. One of the two "healthy" women in the group grabbed the bill, called the waiter and demanded to know who the "pat girl" was. To our horror, the waiter calmly pointed at our friend just as he would pick out a criminal from a police line-up.

This humiliating experience called for another round of drinks and laughs. When we finally asked to settle the bill an hour later, we checked the order form and noticed that the waiter had become more discreet: he just wrote "Pat."

I have grown 50 pounds heavier since that dinner and would probably be listed on the order form today as "pat boy," so I pay attention to ads for Xenical, herbal slimming tea and gym packages. On Edsa, I gaze at Kris Aquino endorsing the Belo medical clinic and wonder when I will be man or vain enough to endure the post-operative pain and the hole in my pocket just to be thinner and sexier. Bench billboards with those beautifully sculpted gods and goddesses in their underwear move me to enjoy life with *lechon, chicharon bulaklak* and, of course, *chicharon* with *laman*. Why bother?

Decades ago, society gossips would always wait for Elvira Manahan to emerge from her annual Holy Week "retreat" beautiful as ever. This had nothing to do with penance and spiritual renewal; she checked in at the Makati Medical Center and had a make-over. Once I asked her why she endured liposuction, teasing her on her vanity. She replied, "It's not vanity, *hijo*. I'm only removing what [fat] shouldn't be there in the first place." She insisted that fat, once removed, would never grow back again, that diet and exercise were not required. Now that was real incentive.

Today doctors will tell you that nothing works better than regular exercise, a balanced diet and a healthy stress-free lifestyle. How do all these fit into history? Well, one of the obscure stories hidden in the 55-volume compilation of documents known as "Blair and Robertson" is a case of drastic cosmetic surgery, actually a lypectomy, performed on the Spanish Governor General Don Manuel de Leon in 1675. An excerpt from the Augustinian Casimiro Diaz's "Conquistas" reads:

"At this time in the year 1675, Governor Don Manuel de Leon was in great danger of dying, on account of having placed himself under medical treatment, without being actually sick, solely for the sake of improving his health... Don Manuel was a corpulent man and had grown so fleshy that he was almost unable to move about without aid, at which he grieved much because he could not attend to many functions which belonged to the obligations of his office. In view of this hindrance and his desires, Juan Ventura Sarra bound himself to cure Don Manuel and remove from him that great encumbrance [of flesh]—confident because he was a very expert surgeon, and the governor a man of great courage and reared in and accustomed to the perils of war.

"The governor accordingly accepted this treatment; and the skillful surgeon opened his abdomen in many places and removed from him many lumps of fat, and then sewed up and treated the wounds. In a few weeks, the governor became well, and his flesh was much reduced, to the wonder of those who saw how the surgeon cut the flesh from his body, and the courage which the governor displayed..."

Anaesthetic was not readily available at the time, and the governor, a veteran of many battles where he was called "Iron Head," submitted to the painful ordeal armed only with his bravery (or should I say stupidity?) because he was almost 70 years old at the time.

While he survived the operation, he still grew fat and that led to some of the wounds reopening. While attending the funeral of Doña Maria Cuellar in Sto. Domingo Church, he started to bleed, but nobody noticed because he was in mourning clothes, and his chair and cushion were black. After a while he swooned and fell into the chair. He was attended to and was made to rest outside Intramuros, in one of the country estates by the Pasig where he died in his sleep on April 8, 1676.

Another cause of death was proposed by the historian De la Concepcion who wrote in his "History of the Philippines":

"Governor Don Manuel de Leon was sick from excessive corpulency; and Don Juan de Sarra treated him by making cruel cuts in the flesh of his body.

"He attended, when these incisions were not yet quite healed, the funeral of Doña Maria de Cullar ... and in the church the vapors which exhale from buried corpses—which, experience proves, cost those so dear, who enter the church with sores or wounds, as those are poisoned and corrupted by those vapors—had the effect on the governor of opening his wounds and bringing on a hemorrhage which exhausted him ... [and he died, April 11, 1667]."

Then as now, you are not covered by insurance for cosmetic surgery. Then as now, people will risk life and limb to look better.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Sun, wind, feet

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"THIS is ridiculous," my American friend declared, "it's colder in here than in the States."

She had flown in with visions of basking out in the sun in shorts and sandals, and instead was bundled up in a sweater and blazer as we made our rounds of conferences and symposia in hotels and meetings in hotels.

I've asked several hotel administrators why they set their thermostats so low and they say that guests from colder countries want it that way. But I've had quite a few friends from the States and Europe who complained that our hotels were much too cold. I've seen this myself, room thermostats set at 15 degrees!

And then there are our offices, both private and government, where the thermostats are also kept at Arctic levels. Here, some of my friends think it's our colonial mentality at work. Air-conditioning mimics the West, allowing us to bring out our suits and jackets and pretend we are in America.

I'm bringing this matter of freezing offices and hotels because with world oil prices spiraling, we're once again hearing government calls to conserve energy. But it's all reactive—we worry only when oil prices go up, and then return to our old profligate ways soon as oil prices drop a bit.

Class discrimination

The energy conservation program is heavily flawed for two reasons. First, the conservation measures themselves are stopgap and are probably not going to result in major reductions in consumption. Second, we don't have a serious long-term plan for alternative energy sources so we can move away from this crippling dependency on oil.

Let's look at the stop-gap measures, which are glaring in the way they discriminate in favor of the rich. Note how they are geared mainly to call on the poor and the middle class to cut down on consumption, while leaving the rich—who are the heaviest consumers in the first place—untouched. We are told to iron less and turn off the lights, but no one says anything about the air conditioning in hotels and offices.

Or look at the plans to create bike and pedestrian lanes. Don't get me wrong—the proposal is an excellent one, and is long overdue—but the poor and the middle class have been walking and biking and taking public transportation even without those lanes. If and when those lanes are constructed, I doubt that the rich are about to leave their cars at home and bike or walk.

I'd be more inclined to encourage people to use more of the light rail transits but people will not use them unless they live close to a station, or can use their cars and park near one of the stations. I have to commend the Shangri-La mall managers for opening their parking to the public as early as 6 a.m. The parking fee is steep but I use it because it spares me the ordeal of battling jeepney and bus drivers whose brains have been fried by lead and shabu.

I know mid-level executives and university professors who regularly use the light rail and there are many more who will be willing to shift if the rides are made more convenient and safe and if you have secure park-and-ride facilities. But other than Shangri-La, I'm not sure there are other LRT or MRT stations where you have secured parking.

Sun and wind

Let's get to long-term plans for alternative energy sources. Since Marcos' time, every president has talked about developing geothermal, solar, wind sources but we're moving too slowly on these cleaner alternatives while, ironically, moving quickly on coal, which is polluting.

There's been much publicity about mostly foreign-funded pilot projects like a barangay in Nueva Vizcaya where households are run on solar energy, or about wind farms in the Ilocos. But I read these press releases with envy—if indeed these are viable, why aren't the technologies more widely promoted? My house uses solar panels for water heating and I've been very happy with the technology but Solarhart, the company that sold me the panels, has not been able to provide more than water heating, not even for a few light bulbs or a laptop. They say the technology isn't cost-effective yet.

I've checked the Internet and found suppliers in the States and in Australia but the kits are bulky—and a bit expensive. Nevertheless, if a local company were to decide to import these panels, and if government could give tax breaks, I suspect there will be more people going solar, at least as a backup energy source. Even the water heating panels were on the high end. I was willing to spend the money only in the interest of environmental conservation.

I just feel we're not doing enough to make more options available. Last year, one of our government officials made a big fuss about using one of those hybrid cars, which allows switching between gasoline and electric power. Those cars have been available in the States and in Europe for several years now, but no one wants to distribute them here. Instead, we have all these suppliers pushing hard to get people to buy those gas-guzzling SUVs.

And what about biomass fuel alternatives to gasoline? Brazil has a good program converting sugar cane into ethanol, which is used by their public utility vehicles. I keep reading about similar "experiments" in the Philippines, but we can't seem to move into wide-scale application.

Healthy patriotism

In the long run, we need to develop a major shift in our culture around the use of energy. For starters, we need to question existing architectural norms that produce homes and offices with gargantuan energy demands in terms of air conditioning and artificial light. I'm amazed, for example, at how difficult it is to get hotels along Roxas Boulevard to provide function rooms with views of Manila Bay; instead, they put you in windowless dungeons that are dark—and freezing.

We have to question the status attached to the use of cars, and the way men try to outdo each other to get the most environmentally destructive models. Conversely, we look down on the most efficient forms of energy conservation: our feet, whether for walking or converted into pedal power for bikes. Even the poor have picked up an aversion to walking: short distances require tricycles, so it's not surprising that tricycle-driving is probably now the No. 1 occupation for Filipino men. The motorized tricycles, incidentally, do contribute to pollution.

Energy conservation means glamorizing the alternatives: sun, wind, biomass fuels, as well as bikes and walking. Let's not get too preachy here. There are ways of promoting biking and walking as economical and healthy fun. Conserving energy makes sense, and really spells out a healthy patriotism.

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Don't forget the motorbikes

THE IDEA of allotting bike lanes on our roads is a good one and I am not against the use of bicycles in going to the office. However, when you live in Caloocan and you work in Makati, the bicycle as a mode of transportation may be impractical.

I used to rely on the public transport system to get to work. I shifted to using a motorcycle for the following reasons: (1) It is cheaper—taking the FX and MRT cost me P100 daily; with a motorbike, I spend P50 a day on the average. (2) It helps me to report on time—I can avoid the traffic. (3) I spend less for parking—only P15 a day; a car would cost P100 to P120.

With all the hype about the bicycle lanes, I would like to throw these questions to our government officials and lawmakers: (1) How about the rules and safety measures for the bikers? (2) How about the condition of the roads that will be designated as bike lanes? (3) Are these officials willing to use the bicycle in going to their offices or to the Senate or House of Representatives? Right now, our politicians are fond of using big SUV's that eat up two liters of fuel upon starting. (For a motorcycle, that is already two days of fuel from Caloocan to Makati.) Our high-ranking government officials should lead the way in the national effort to save on fuel. (4) Will the rules to be implemented be based on facts and not on stupid reasoning?

Marikina banned the use of full-faced helmets, because robbers were using these to cover their faces. A full-faced helmet provides the safest protection for a motorcycle driver. Now will the ban stop the robbers from using a mask or a scarf to avoid identification? The safety of the motorcycle drivers is compromised just to hide the incompetence of our law enforcement authorities.

In other nations like China, Malaysia and India, the use of motorcycles is being encouraged because it is more economical and uses less fuel. But here in our country, our laws do not protect—in fact, they discriminate against—motorcycle drivers. In Ortigas, for example, most parking lots do not admit motorcycles. Can we expect better treatment for bicycle users?

The government should first enact laws that are "friendly" to bike and motorcycle users before spending millions of pesos on roads and infrastructure. Otherwise, the bike lanes will only end up as parking areas for cars and fishball stands.

—DENNIS MACALISANG,
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Electoral reforms not new form of government

WHATEVER form of government we adopt—presidential, parliamentary, federal, etc.—our problems will remain with us because the persons who will be running it will most likely be the same politicians. Yes, the same politicians who have turned public office in the country into a business enterprise—into which they invest millions of pesos to get elected, because they have seen that the rate of return from the venture runs into hundreds of millions in pesos. The same politicians who have made public office a family business. Hence, the Philippines has one of the highest—if not the highest—incidence of political dynasties in the world—a situation that advances elitism and mocks democracy, because only the very rich and well-connected generally are elected to public office.

The problem, therefore, is not in the form of government, but in the way public officials are selected and elected.

In the private sector, job applicants go through a qualification and screening process that includes a battery of interviews and tests. The process insures that only the best and the brightest are hired for a particular position. But in the public sector, the only qualifications a would-be candidate needs are that he should be a Filipino citizen, meet the age requirement and be able to read and write.

But to get himself elected, he has to have enough money, connections and alliances. No wonder, we have the kind of elected public officials we have. No wonder, even if our country is very rich in natural resources and talents, we are near the bottom rung of the world's economic ladder. And one of every eight Filipinos is working abroad because of the lack of economic opportunities here.

The solution is simple, obvious and democratic: let us adopt the private-sector way in electing public officials, modified suitably for our national situation. Qualifications for public office in each level should include standards of competence and morality. Then, candidates should be screened, tested and interviewed against these qualifications. The top three to five candidates for each position should then be selected. The government should defray the election campaign expenses of the candidates, who will then conduct their campaign according to a set budget, rules and regulations.

This process will ensure the following: statesmanship in public service; professionalization of public office; election of technically and morally competent officials; less graft and corruption, since public officials do not need to incur financial and political debts to get themselves elected; and genuine democracy, since public office will now be realistically open to any Filipino citizen, not only to the rich and the well-connected elite and political dynasties.

—SAMUEL J. YAP, 118 Granada, San Antonio Heights, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Militants are admirable

THIS is a reaction to the letter titled "Shutting up the militants" from a certain Lester Javier. (PDI, 7/19/05) As Voltaire, one of the greatest philosophers, once said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." This is actually the problem that we have with some Filipinos right now. They think that shutting the militants up will do the country good.

The passion that drives militants when they are fighting for their beliefs is something that everyone—especially those who work in the comforts of their offices and complain only about the traffic and the inconvenience caused by demonstrations—should admire. Why insult and even prevent the militants from showing their patriotism? They may not be educated in the proper way of showing their love for their country or how to promote their causes without compromising the economy, but at least they have the courage and the spirit to fight for their beliefs.

Moreover, they are not the only ones not paying their taxes; even the richest people in our nation are not paying their taxes. Whatever happened to the tax evasion case against Lucio Tan?

And yes, they demand so much from the government, but isn't that what we're all supposed to do. They are the only ones who aren't hypnotized by the daily routine of going to office and minding nothing else but work.

And if you think the working middle-class is going to start protesting, that's where you're wrong. The problem with middle-class Filipinos today is: you ask them for anything that's not related to their line of work, they just respond with a blank expression and pass you to someone else. Middle-class Filipinos are zombies! They need to wake up. They need to feel passion for what they believe in.

These protests are the only way that voices can be heard. The Hyatt 10 have shown their disgust of the present administration, and two more Palace officials have resigned. They should all be admired for leaving the comfort and security of their government posts.

These militants should continue fighting for what they believe in. They may be a cause of inconvenience but they are actually doing something, at least. They may be a nuisance to the middle-class, but they are, at least, passionate about what they are doing.

—AMETHYST WYTIU,
amethyst_wytiu@yahoo.com

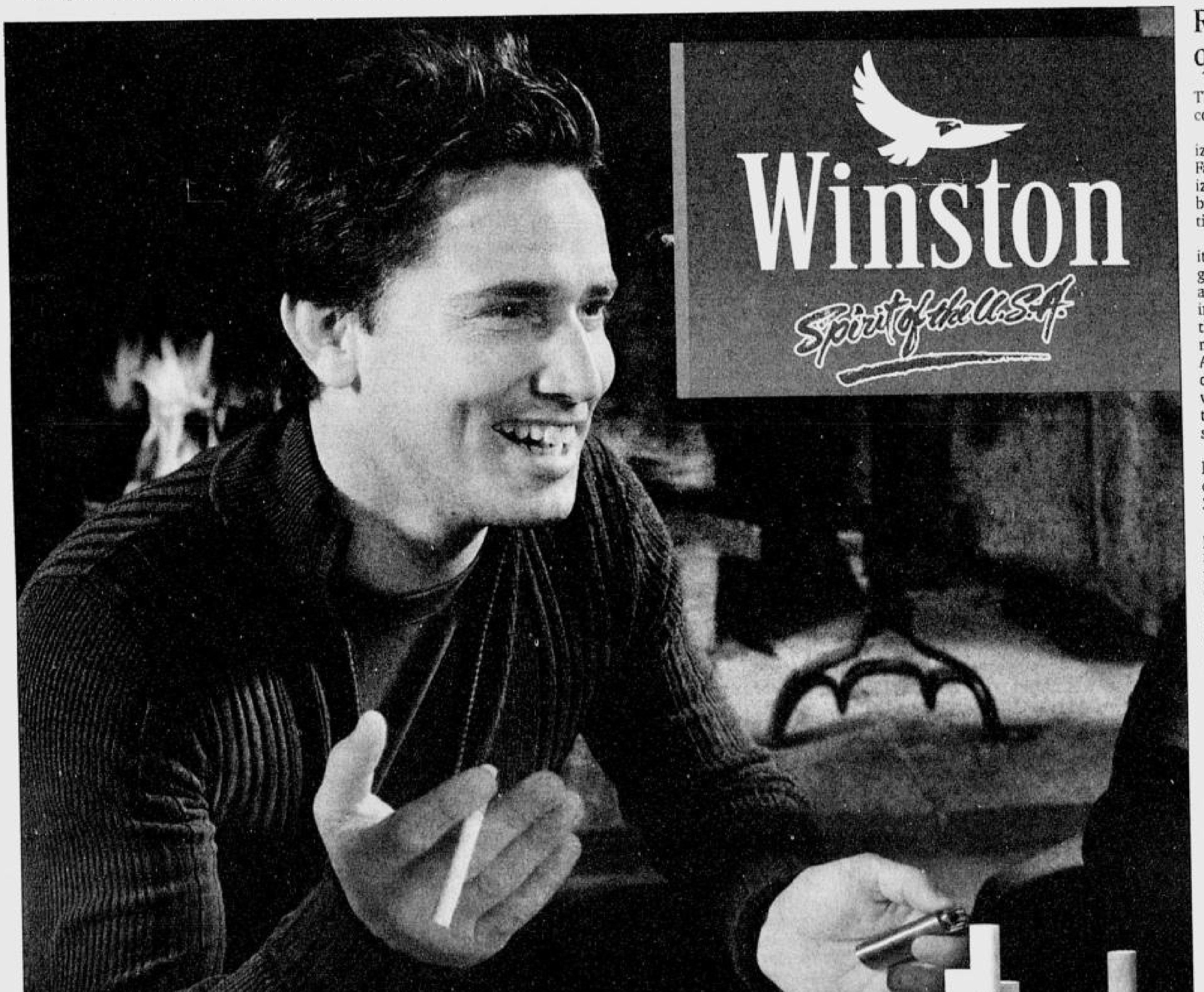
Survival overruling history

MICHAEL Tan rued the plight of the descendants of Filipino women who were raped by Japanese soldiers during World War II. (PDI, 8/17/05) He said many of them are now working as "entertainers" in Japan. He stressed the need to keep history, as well as its lessons, in the national consciousness.

It is my opinion that the reason the descendants of comfort women are working as "entertainers" is that there is a lack of decent-paying, honest jobs in the Philippines—jobs that challenge a person and jobs that a person can be proud of.

This country needs to bring wages "in line" with the cost of living and stop the mass migration of talent to other countries, where many are exploited. No matter what history teaches us, survival will overrule history.

—JEROME LAMES,
jlames@pldtdsl.net



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Rice importation quotas auctioned

THIS is in reaction to the news item "Traders corner NFA rice supplies." (PDI, 7/29/05)

The National Food Authority's Institutionalized Farmers as Distributors program and Farmers as Importers (FAI) were conceptualized to help our farmers become entrepreneurs by participating in the business of rice distribution and importation.

Only farmers' organizations (FOs) accredited by the NFA may participate in these programs. Under these programs, our farmers are given the opportunity to earn additional income which will eventually help in uplifting their economic conditions. These FOs must meet the requirements set by the food agency. Among these requirements is they should be duly-accredited by—and in good standing with—the Cooperative Development Authority and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

With the FAI program, rice importation is no longer an NFA monopoly. This fulfills NFA's commitment to President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2002 State of the Nation Address.

Presently, because of some world market price movements and other factors that hinder rice importation, the FOs' allocation, which is part of the country's requirement, was subjected to auction by the NFA. The agency facilitates the importation through auctions, which is open to accredited FOs, retailers and others. The auctions are open to observers from the media and the civil society to assure transparency in the procedures.

The NFA has no control over the distribution of the FOs' allocation or as to how much they sell them.

It is the responsibility of the NFA to ensure that good-quality and affordable NFA rice is ever available in its accredited rice outlets—such as, Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB), Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP)—at any given time of the year.

We continue to field our people in the markets nationwide to look into any irregularities in the distribution of rice, especially NFA rice. Our Palengke Watch monitoring teams are trained to apprehend rice traders or businessmen who violate the rules and regulations set by the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP).

The NFA accepts reports of any anomalies that are committed against our stakeholders, especially the farmers and consumers. The public may approach our team of professionals manning our Customer Assistance Units (CAUs) which are found in all our offices nationwide. We also have our Text NFA Program to which the public may send complaints, inquiries or even suggestions via mobile number 0917-6210927.

—REX C. ESTOPEREZ,
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Quezon City

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'Jueteng' tops agenda of mayors' meet

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Full implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act of 2002 or Republic Act 9003 through ecological waste management and the total eradication of "jueteng" in the country will be the top two agenda items when the League of Cities and the League of Municipalities hold their joint annual conference here on Aug. 31.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who is also the chair of the League of Cities, is expected to showcase this city's sanitary landfill, the first in the country since R.A. 9003 was enacted.

Hagedorn was also recently appointed anti-jueteng czar by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The P170 million landfill (not P40 million as earlier reported) is already 90 percent complete and massive information campaign on ecological waste management is now ongoing in the city.

Only the material recovery facility is now left unfinished among the six compartments of the landfill.

"We have to rush things up in time because we want to prove that ecological waste management can be done with the help of our citizenry," Hagedorn said.

A staunch supporter of the campaign on environmental protection, Hagedorn said he believed that good example from the leaders would set the mood of the people to follow. A former jueteng operator himself, Hagedorn said it was not true that jueteng helped the poor. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

The 'jueteng' buck stops for 2 mayors

WHEN the jueteng scandal started to hog the limelight again, many mayors said it was the end of the KBL or "kasal, binyag, libing" (wedding, christening and funeral) assistance for their constituents. They said whatever they received in "jueteng" payola was returned to the people.

But two Pangasinan mayors were the least disturbed. They said the illegal numbers game never flourished in their towns and the local governments' social funds were there to finance their obligations.

So jueteng or no jueteng, Bani Mayor Gabriel Navarro and Burgos Mayor Domingo Doctor could just say, "So what?"

Their towns belong to the lower economic classification (Bani is third class while Burgos is fifth class) and could use jueteng money to improve services to help their constituents. But the two never wavered in their resolve to keep their towns jueteng-free. For them, the jueteng buck stops in their offices.

Navarro and Doctor talked recently with Pangasinan correspondent Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes to explain why they did not allow jueteng in their towns.

Excerpts:

Since when has there been no jueteng operations in your town?

Navarro: There was no jueteng in Bani from 1972 to 1995 when my father (former Mayor Marcelo Navarro) was the town mayor. When I became mayor in 1998, I refused to let jueteng lords operate in my town.

Doctor: Since I became mayor in 2001. Before that, jueteng was flourishing in the town.

How did jueteng lords approach you? What was their offer?

Navarro: When I assumed the mayorship, I was approached twice by two persons on different occasions. One came to my house and another at the municipal hall. When they started telling me they wanted to talk about the "*laro*" (game), I said no.

They started explaining but I did not give them a chance to continue. I said, "You want me to put you in jail?" So they stopped talking and I never got to know what their offer was.

Doctor: I came from the military, a captain who was with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines before I became mayor. Some of my friends in the military came to see me during my first days in office, convincing me to allow jueteng operations in the town. I told them to leave me alone. Then there were the emissaries.

When I was included as one of the local officials who were given "Parangal para sa Mararangal" by Archbishop Oscar Cruz in 2003, I displayed the medallion in my office. I just point at it when the emissaries come and they leave.

As to how much the offer was, it started with P35,000 a month. The last offer was P80,000 monthly.

Did you know them?

Navarro: No. And that was my mistake. I should have asked for their names and where they were from.

Doctor: They were my colleagues in the military. I know the police officers, too. But I do not know the emissaries.

Why don't you like jueteng?

Navarro: Because it's illegal. It's as simple as that. But Daddy was really a big influence. He inculcated in us the value of not engaging in any kind of gambling.

Doctor: When I became mayor, I eliminated the SOP (money given by contractors and suppliers who do business with the local government). I got rid of overpricing. It will conflict with this policy if I accept jueteng payola.

Besides, jueteng is illegal. And jueteng money is dirty because it is squeezed from poor people.

You never gamble?

Navarro: Well, everyday is a gamble. The decision not to let jueteng operate in the town was a gamble. Will the people not vote for me anymore? But I'm already on my third term so it seems not to be a big deal after all.

Doctor: Jueteng never thrived because it is illegal. Once in a while, when a lotto bet collector comes, I do bet. I also allow the staging of *bolarit* (cockfights) but only during barangay fiestas.

Most mayors say they allow jueteng in their towns so they can use the money for their social obligations. Where do you get the money for such?

Navarro: I never give them and they're used to it. When I officiate at weddings or act as a sponsor, I never give money or gifts. Except when the wedding is held when I have just received my salary, that's when I give a little during the *pabitin* (a tradition where relatives pin money on the newlyweds' clothes).

The local government has a budget for the mayor's social obligations and that's what we give to those really in need. We also gave the poor residents PhilHealth cards that they use when they get sick.

Doctor: My constituents never ask me for that. But the local government has a social welfare fund for indigents when they need assistance. The indigents are also enrolled with the PhilHealth for their hospitalization needs. I don't give gifts during wedding or baptism but I still get invited as a sponsor. And they are happy.

Do you favor the legalization of jueteng?

Navarro: I don't know. I don't have the wisdom for that. It's up to Congress.

Doctor: No. It will continue to be a social menace and it will still be the poor who will be victimized.

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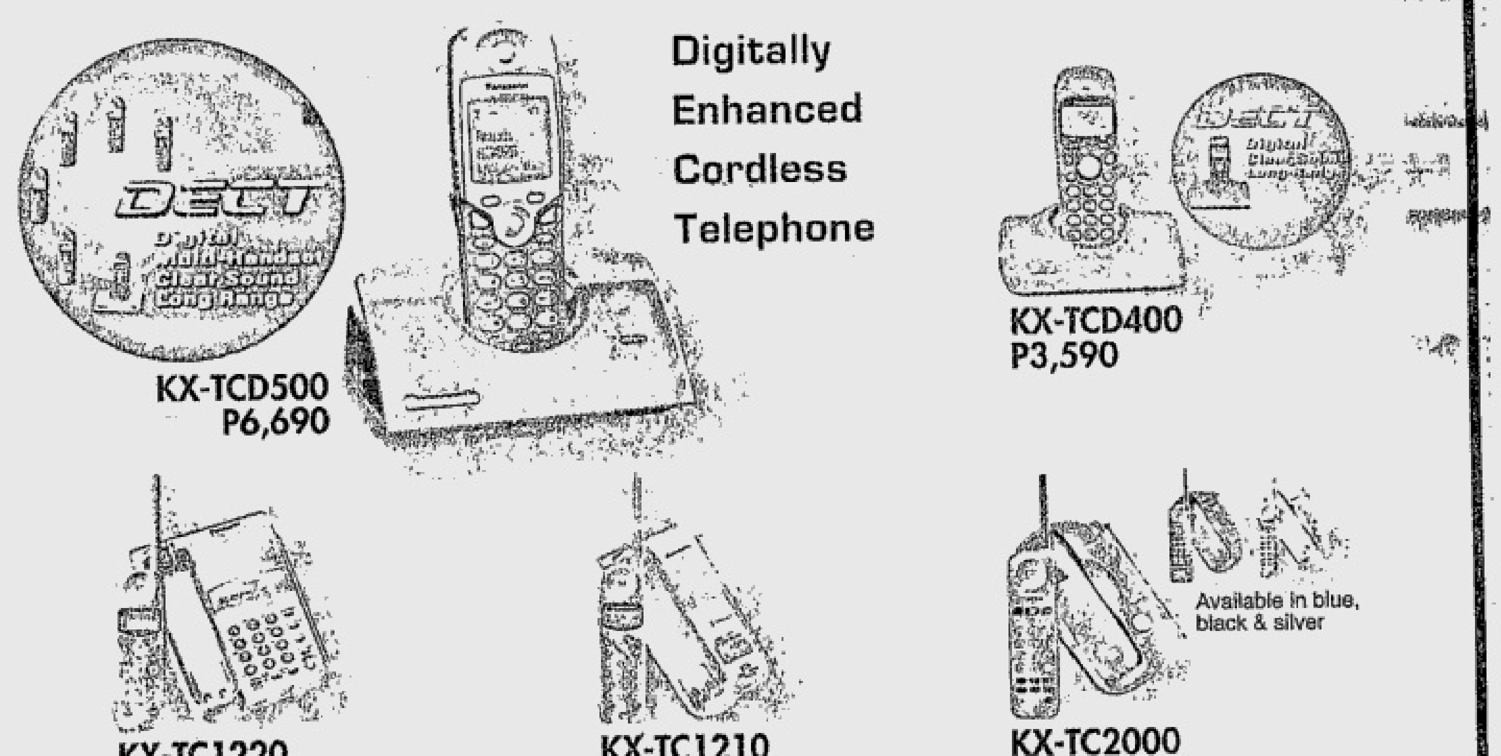

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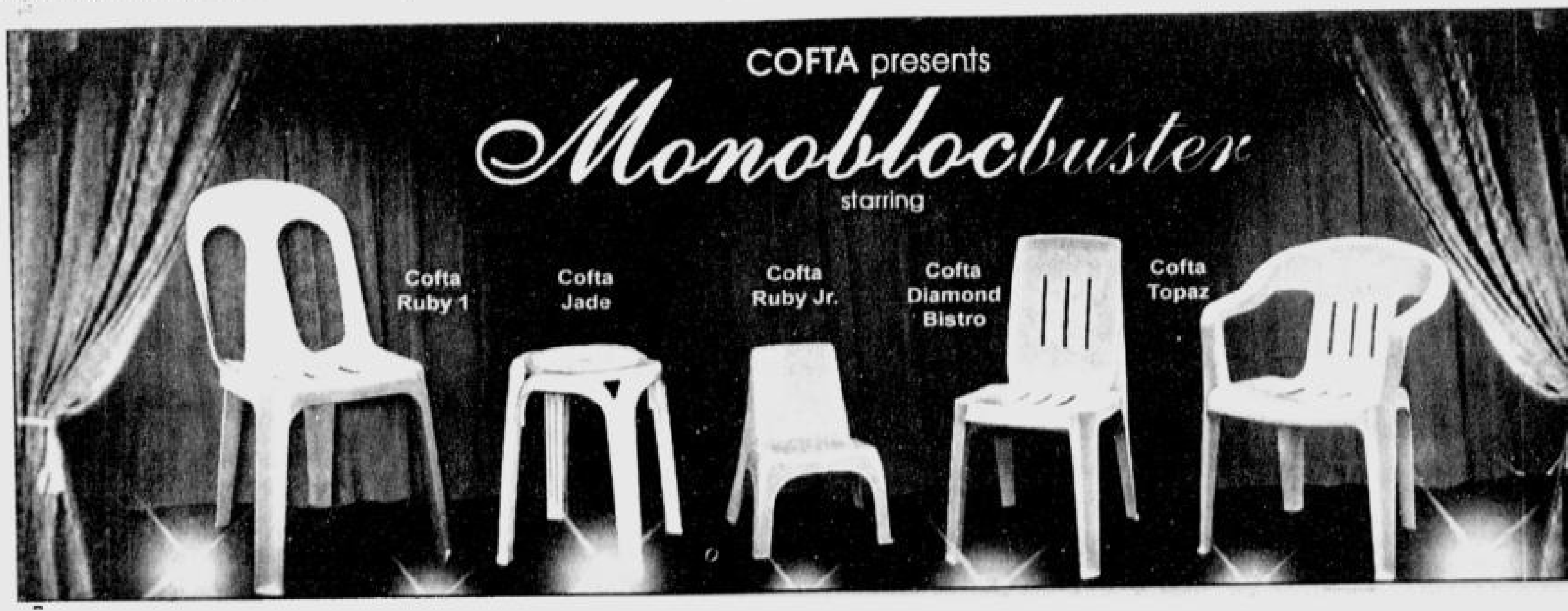

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'Meningo' strikes Samar town, kills 4-yr-old boy

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A four-year old boy from Catbalogan town in Samar died last week due to meningococcemia, according to the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas (DOH-).

Boyd Cerro, DOH-8 regional sentinel nurse, however, declined to identify the boy who died hours after he was confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center in this city.

He said the boy, a native of Barangay Mercedes in Catbalogan, was this year's first fatality of meningococcemia in Eastern Visayas.

According to Cerro, the boy's parents brought him to EVRMC at about 10 a.m. last Aug. 17, after a week of suffering from high fever.

The boy died at about 11 p.m. of the same day and was buried the next day in Catbalogan, he said.

Cerro said doctors had confirmed that the boy's death was caused by meningococcemia. The boy manifested symptoms of the disease like high fever, chills and body rashes.

He said he instructed Myra Mabangue, Samar provincial sentinel nurse, to closely monitor the boy's family members and at the same time, conduct an information drive on meningococcemia to avoid panic among the people in the community.

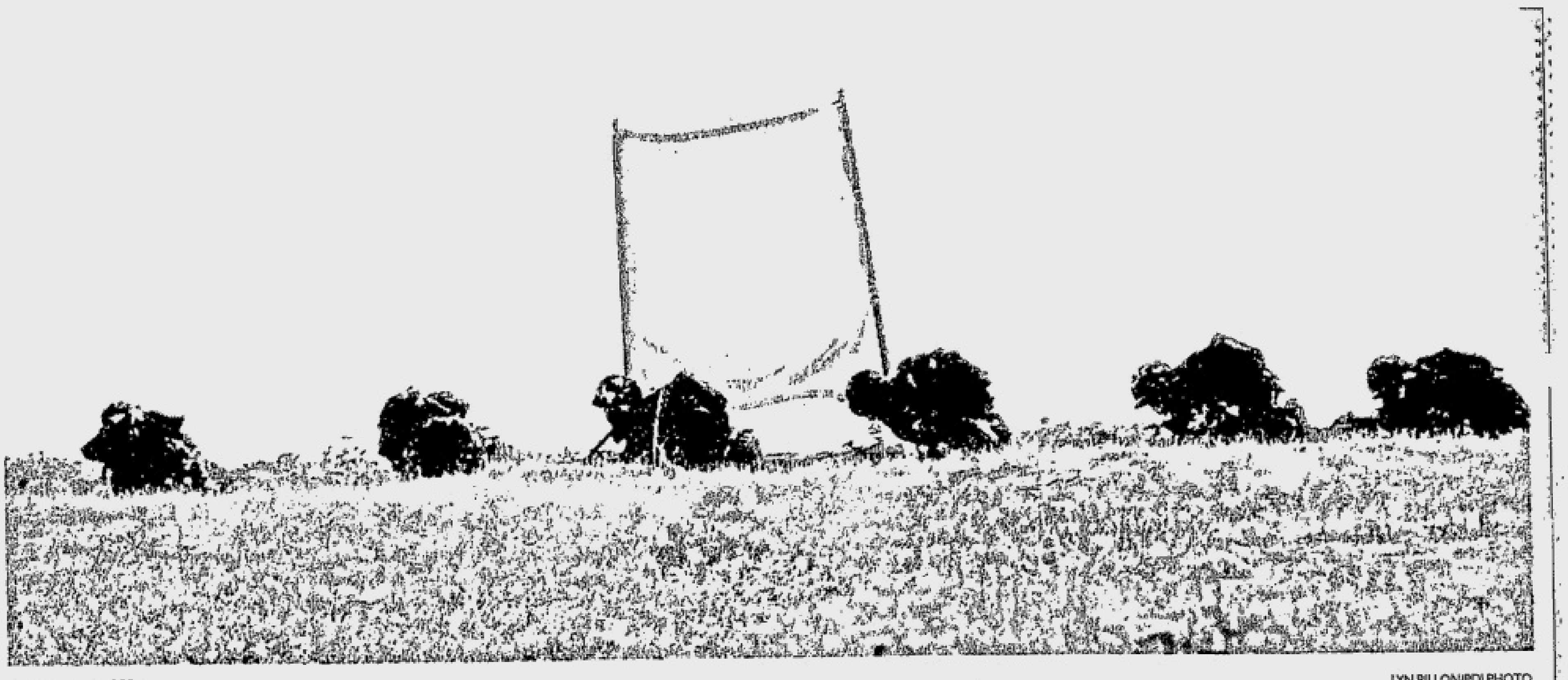
"According to the report that we have gathered from our provincial sentinel nurse, residents in the barangay panicked when they learned that the boy was afflicted with meningococcemia. I think, this is over reaction," Cerro said.

He pointed out that the boy's death was nothing to worry about because meningococcemia was one of the common diseases in the country.

"We should not over react on this. It happens everywhere in the Philippines," Cerro told the INQUIRER.

He said that last year, the DOH-8 monitored four cases of meningococcemia cases in the region. Two of these patients died due to the disease.

This year, Cerro said the DOH-8 monitored two other cases of meningococcemia in Eastern Visayas.



LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

EXERCISES

Marines who disembarked from the US Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) crawl near an orange marker on the beaches of the Naval Education Training Command during the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training US-RP military exercises in San Antonio, Zambales.

Typhoid fever downs 200 in Quezon village

LUCENA CITY—A 13-year-old boy died and at least 212 persons, most of them schoolchildren, in Barangay Magallanes, Lopez, Quezon have been stricken with typhoid fever and malaria for the last two weeks, the municipal health officer reported yesterday.

According to Dr. Jose Mercado Jr., Lopez municipal doctor, the typhoid fever epidemic broke out last Aug. 8 and mostly affected schoolchildren.

Local health authorities suspected that the water from the two wells in the village was the culprit.

Water source

"The ambulant vendors near the schools, especially those selling cold drinks, get their water from the infected wells," Mercado said in a phone interview.

The doctor revealed that municipal health inspectors had long declared that the water from the wells was not potable.

The water wells are located near the houses, according to Mercado.

"With the heavy rains last month, the seepage from septic tanks from nearby houses could have also infected the wells," the local health chief said.

He added that most of the affected patients were relatives or members of same families.

Late treatment

"Since they live in one house sharing things and all, most of them got easily infected," he said.

Mercado identified the victim as Ian Glenn Yngente, 13, a resident of the nearby village of Batabat Norte, Buenavista, Quezon.

According to Mercado, the boy's parents did not immediately seek medical treatment but only relied on the local quack doctor.

"When the health condition of the patient became serious, it was already too late for the boy," Mercado said.

According to Mercado, they also monitored malaria cases in Barangay Magallanes, some 20 kilometers of rugged road from the town proper.

Medical team

He said a medical team from the Department of Health was expected to arrive today.

Mercado said most of the affected patients were now recuperating.

Only seven victims are still confined at the Magsaysay Memorial District Hospital in Lopez town. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AKO NA NAMAN!?

Carabaos seen big help in energy conservation

CANDABA, Pampanga—Back to basics.

In support of Malacañang's call to adopt austerity measures, the municipal government asked farmers to set aside their hand tractors and use their carabaos (water buffalos) instead in plowing their fields to conserve fuel.

"If our grandparents and parents were able to enrich and harvested well bred rice and melon using just carabaos and simple traditional farm tools, why can't we do the same?" said Mayor Jerry Pelayo.

"We should go back to basics during this time of oil crisis and help our country by setting aside the fuel-consuming tractors and using our carabaos to till our farms," he said.

He said while local farmers still own carabaos, they tend to use their hand tractors, locally known as *kuliglig*, in plowing their fields.

Pelayo estimates the number of hand tractors being used by farmers in the town at 500 units.

"Almost all, if not all, farmers in Candaba own tractors. And they don't just use them in plowing their fields. They also use them as means of transportation by installing wheels and trailers on the *kuliglig*. Instead of walking, they use their *kuliglig* to attend fiestas, weddings or baptisms in other barangays. Nobody seems to prefer walking nowadays," he said.

But Pelayo said the increasing costs of oil products require everyone to go back to basics.

Last week Pelayo ordered all employees of the municipal hall to shut down air conditioning units in their offices. He also urged his constituents to relearn the use of alternative fuel sources in cooking food like improvised charcoal made from corn leftovers.

In the City of San Fernando, Mayor Oscar Rodriguez asked local government employees to minimize the use of lights, air conditioning systems and government-issued vehicles. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Search for oil to expand to other parts of Visayan Sea

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The search for oil will expand to other portions of the Visayan Sea, according to the Department of Energy in Central Visayas (DOE-7).

The announcement was issued Monday despite the concerns raised by fishermen and environmentalists on the joint oil exploration being conducted in Tañon Strait, a protected seascape located between Negros and Cebu.

From the Tañon Strait, the oil exploration will go to Bohol Strait, which is located between Bohol and Cebu provinces.

Aside from the Bohol Strait, DOE regional director Antonio Labios said there would be an onshore oil exploration in Northern Leyte, specifically in Ormoc City which will cover 240,000 hectares.

The oil exploration in Bohol Strait will start either next week or in the first week of September and will cover around 204,000 hectares.

The affected areas in Bohol include Tagbilaran City and the towns of Dauis, Panglao, Cortes, Maribojoc and Loon. The exploration will also cover the towns of Argao, Dalaguete, Alcoy and Boljoon in Cebu.

The oil exploration will be conducted by a consortium of three companies based in Manila led by Alcorn Gold Resource Corp.

The two other companies are the Petro Energy Resource Corp. and the Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.

Labios had informed Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and Bohol Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera of the exploration project.

Garcia had asked Labios to conduct an information dissemination campaign in the affected local government units and the fishermen.

The governor said she did not want a repeat of an incident in May when she received complaints on the oil exploration conducted along the Tañon Strait.

The complaints include failure of the DOE to coordinate with the affected local government units and the destruction of some fish pens in the west-coast towns.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, however, welcomed the oil exploration, saying this could be good to the economy of the Visayas provinces as well as the country in the wake of the looming energy crisis.

Labios, for his part, assured that DOE personnel had been conducting information campaign in the affected coastal towns of Bohol and Cebu and even attended the municipal council sessions.

Besides, he added that the activity did not involve any drilling operation but merely a detailed seismic survey in the area.

Labios said the survey would be conducted in deep waters on board a vessel and would be far from the shoreline where fish pens were located.

"Our concern is the fast crafts and other vessels because that area is considered a navigational area for fast crafts and other passenger vessels," he said.

To ensure the protection of the marine resources, personnel from Philippine Coast Guard, DOE, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the ad hoc committee of the Cebu provincial government will board the vessel that be used in the exploration activity.

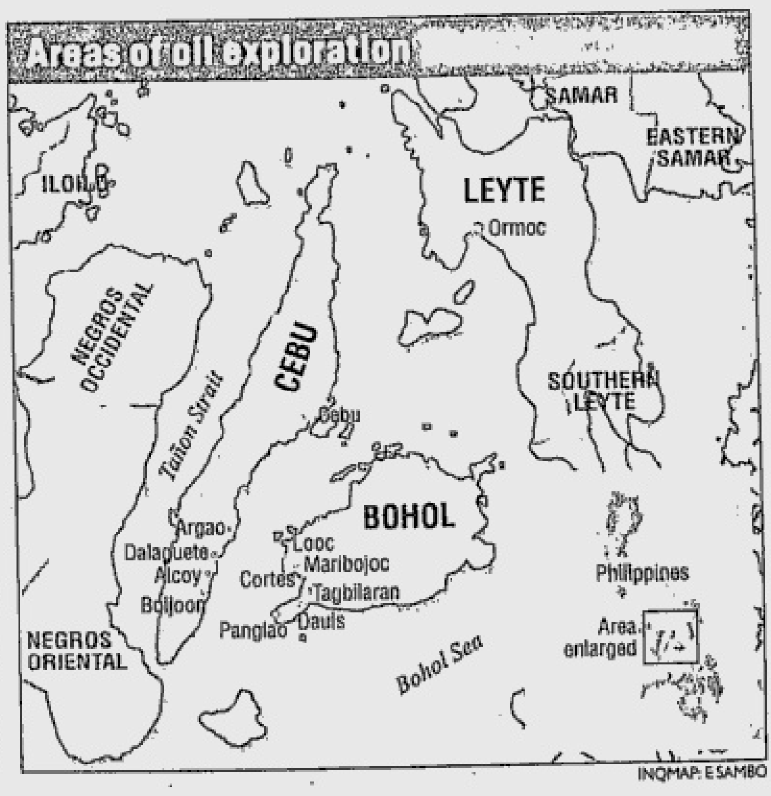
Labios said they would report to Garcia three days before the start of the activity.

A seismic survey will determine the rock structure under the sea to find out the formation of possible geologic trap for oil, said Ed Amante, DOE-7 chief for energy resource development and utilization division.

He said the activity will not harm any marine resources because it will be done through an equipment that can measure the sound wave of the sea.

If the evaluation shows the area is rich in oil deposits, the proper drilling operation will be conducted.

Areas of oil exploration



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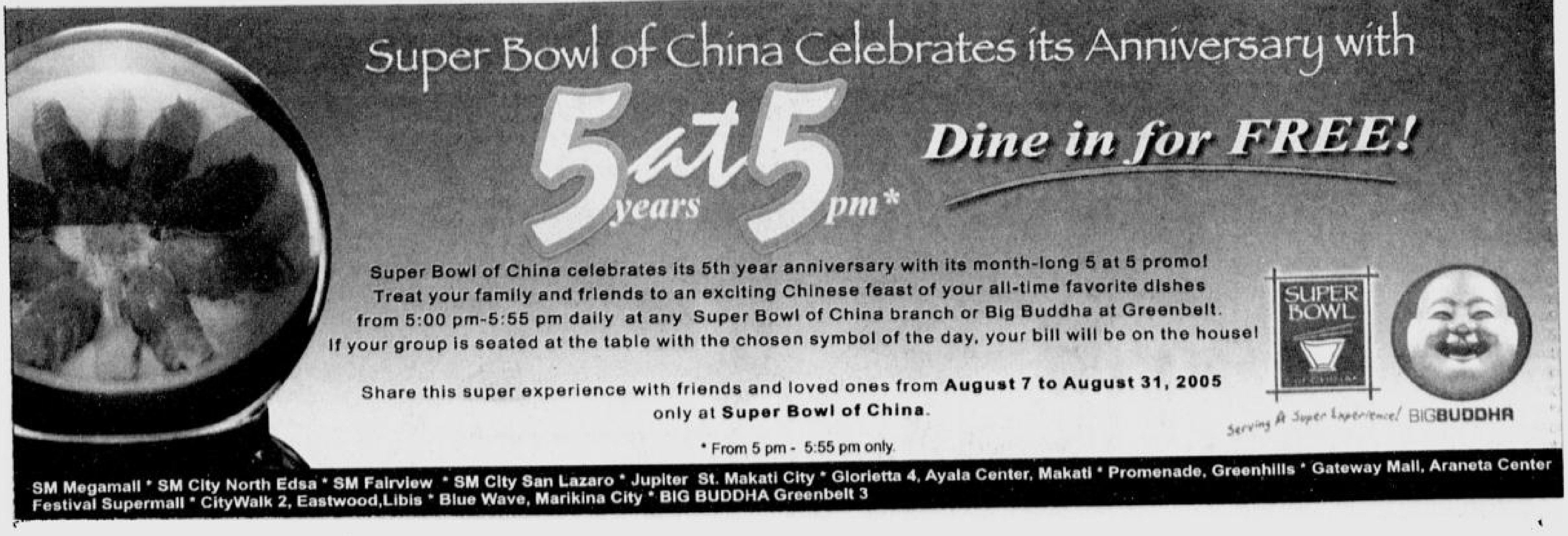
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DAVAO FEAST BING GONZALES/PDI PHOTO

A member of the Maranao tribe from Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao play native music instruments during a program in celebration of the Kadayawan sa Dabaw festival.

USAID pullout threatens family planning program

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Just like other rural communities in the country, Benguet's 13 towns are also facing a dilemma on how to sustain the availability and delivery of artificial contraceptives.

The problem started last year when the Department of Health announced that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had decided to gradually phase out its program of donating to the country condoms, injectable, pills and other birth control devices.

The USAID started the slowdown of the delivery of these contraceptives last year and expects to complete the phaseout by 2007, ending 30 years of supporting the country's family planning program through grants of contraceptives, Dr. Esteban Piok, provincial health officer, said.

Quandary

Piok, also chief of the Benguet General Hospital here, said the provincial and town governments are now in a quandary on how to sustain its family planning services during the phase out period and after 2007.

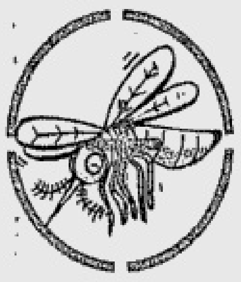
The problem is mainly on the availability of funds, Piok said, He said a "logistics policy guideline" had been prepared by the province to provide stopgap measures during USAID's phase out period.

Piok told Benguet board members on Monday that the provinces' 13 towns might not be fully prepared to meet their needs for contraceptives which could put in peril family programs already in place.

The local government code has devolved to local governments health and social services through the maintenance of barangay health and day care centers.

ROUNDUP

Dengue watch



BAGUIO CITY—Health officials are closely watching Cordillera towns, especially Lamut in Ifugao, following the rise of dengue cases in the region in the last four months. From May to Aug. 9, Lamut reported 267 cases while Tadian town in Mt. Province recorded 153 cases, the regional Department of Health said. Tabuk town in Kalinga had 112 cases. Health officials said three people have died of dengue this year, the latest victim was a 4-year-old girl in Tadian in July.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Reward for killer

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Mayor Edward Hagedorn has offered P200,000 to whoever can find the hitman that shot and fatally wounded human rights activist pastor Raul Domingo last Saturday. Domingo was on his way home along Lomboy Street in Barangay San Jose when he was shot by an unidentified gunman aboard a motorcycle at 12:30 p.m. Domingo suffered two wounds in his lower body. Hagedorn condemned the incident, saying that such act "has no place in our peace-loving city." Police provincial director Senior Supt. Rey Lañada has ordered an all-out manhunt for the suspects.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rally vs violence

CALAMBA CITY—The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST) and its affiliate legal organizations yesterday protested anew the killing of 109 activists in the region. During a rally at Barangay Uno Crossing here to commemorate the violent death of Sen. Ninoy Aquino under the Marcos dictatorship, Bayan-ST secretary general Arman Albarillo said the same violence under Marcos is continuing under the Arroyo administration with 109 killings in Southern Tagalog. The ralliers also hit the attempted assassination of human rights leader Pastor Raul Domingo of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vice mayor tagged in slay

NAGA CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation in this city has tagged the vice mayor of Aroroy, Masbate as behind the slaying of his rival who had initiated a recall election against him. In a report to the Mabate Provincial Prosecutor's Office, the NBI has included Aroroy vice mayor Enrico Capinig among other suspects in the death of his rival, Rolly Bueno, who was ambushed on June 24 in Talib, Aroroy. On June 24, Bueno left his house at around 9 a.m. to show documents needed in the recall election against Capinig to certain Tilong Basulgan in Barangay Talib, Aroroy, Masbate. The victim was found dead along the road at 11 a.m. with multiple bullet wounds and an incised wound in the neck.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Kids as couriers

NAPAGUTUSAN LANG PO AKO!

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Marijuana growers and traders in Benguet have turned to using minors as couriers of the plant's by-products that are still listed as illegal drugs. Police discovered this after they seized on Friday 20 kilos of high-grade marijuana bricks worth P200,000 from a 17-year-old boy from Itogon, Benguet. The cargo of dried marijuana bricks, packed in 10 two-kilo boxes sealed in a cigarette carton, was loaded in a Manila-bound bus where the boy rode, according to Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police police. Policemen intercepted the bus in Capas, Tarlac after it sped past a checkpoint in Tarlac City.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Asian drug meet

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—This city is now prepared to host the Second Asian Cities Against Drugs Conference on Sept. 11-15. Douglas Hagedorn, Puerto Princesa Association of Barangay Captains chair, said 20 mayors from Asian cities were here last week to lay down plans for the conference and confirmed that the city will be this year's host after their ocular inspection on its capability to host such an event. Hagedorn is the chair of the city's anti-drug program Task Force Drug Enforcement Action Division. Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn expressed delight over the selection of the city as this year's host. The conference is expected to be attended by some 300 city mayors throughout Asia.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pagadian
Zamboanga del Sur
Finally they're here
Photo courtesy of Harvey Tapan

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Can Sagada preserve its burial caves?

By Michael Umaming
Contributor

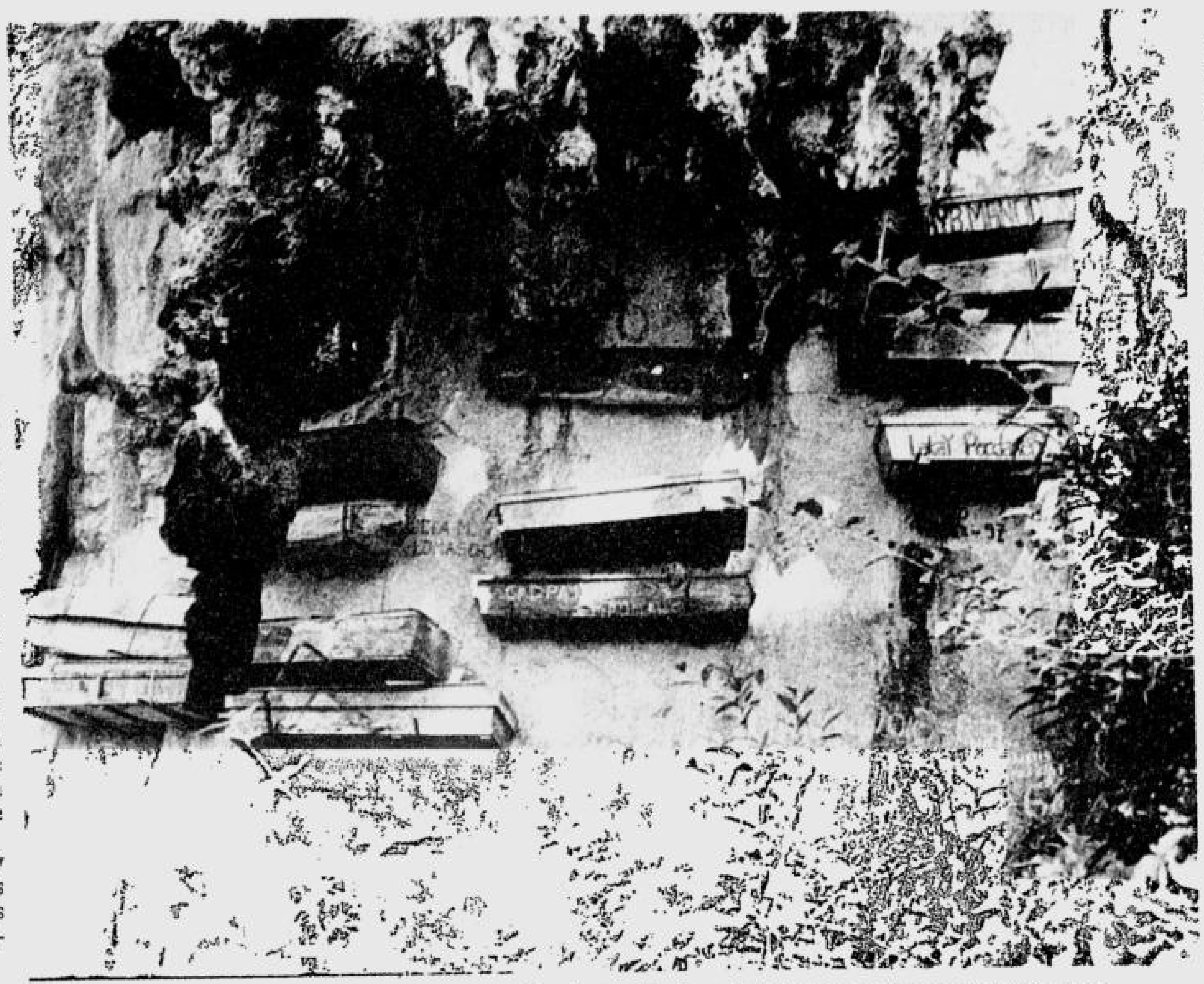
GUILLERMO Gawili was shocked when he last visited the Sumaging Cave in Sagada, Mt. Province, in December 1999. "*Inmayan pay san ado-ado'y koong* (Where did the many coffins go)?" he asked.

In the September 1954 issue of the Sagada Postboy, the newsletter of the St. Mary's School, Gawili was featured to have led a team that rescued two boys who went to the cave and failed to return by dark. He was among the few students in his time who had explored various portions of Sumaging, Sagada's biggest and most popular cave.

"I have been guiding student excursionists since 1952 and I remember hundreds of coffins piled at its entrance," he said.

Gawili's shock was understandable. In 1957, he left Sagada and established a permanent residence in La Trinidad, Benguet. He had the chance to see Sumaging again almost half a century later and failed to find a trace of coffin there.

The only burial cave with many coffins that tourists could visit now is the Lumiyang Cave. Another famous burial cave, the Matangkib, was padlocked in 1996.



THE HANGING coffins are among Sagada's top attractions, but residents and officials lament that many of them in the mountainsides and burial caves have been desecrated by vandals.

DINAH ELMA PILUDEN-OMENGAN/CONTRIBUTOR

Christian burial sites

Rev. John Staunton, the first Anglican missionary to Sagada, blessed both caves in 1904 as Christian burial sites when he failed to convince the natives to bury their dead in the Christian cemetery in the town.

There were more than 1,000 coffins in Lumiyang in the early 1970s. Today, only 109 remain, including five "modern" coffins.

Three of the modern coffins are rotting. Of the older native coffins, three are rotting and 10 have been opened. Only 17, protected by the outer pile, can be said to be sturdy and unmoved.

But even these 17 coffins show infestation by wood bugs, which could speed up their rotting process.

In Matangkib, 54 old coffins that remain sturdy are stacked in different corners inside the cave. Outside, the coffins that used to be there 20 or more years ago are rotting or have disappeared.

At least 12 coffins have missing covers. The rest, except for three located in a very steep site, have covers that had been lifted.

Tourism

Tourism is the most convenient to blame for the sorry state of the burial caves of Sagada.

"*Sino'y aped um-umey is liyang ay baey di anito* (Who would dare go to the caves which are home to spirits)?" asked Ama Magwilang, one of the few remaining elders who would seriously consider a cave burial.

"*Wani pay ay inmado nan turista sapay is loblobten di ipogaw* (It is only now with the influx of tourists that people dared to enter the caves)."

In the September 1980 issue of Mensapit, a community newsletter published by the local church, Dr. Andrew Tauli wrote of an old man in Barangay Demang who was looking for a final resting place—a *liang* (cave) or rocky abode where his remains will not be disturbed, desecrated or vandalized.

This, according to residents, was an indirect indictment of what has happened to the burial caves of Sagada.

Tauli said that among the tourists Sagada had attracted were vandals and souvenir seekers. He lamented that the aura of sanctity, serenity and even fear that surrounded places of the dead dissipated with the frequent intrusion of visitors.

Appalled

Other tourists were also appalled by what they saw in the burial caves.

"Tourists can pretty much do as they pleased. Coffins are being opened and bones can be found scattered," wrote Cathrin Thodock, a Norwegian tourist who shared her 1995 visit to the Sagada caves in her personal website.

Thodock suggested that Lumiyang must be closed to tourists.

David Mang-usan, a tourist guide from 1977 to 1992, said there was indeed "deceit" in the partnership between tourists and some residents, especially in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The tourists would ask local guides to bring them coffins or coffin covers for a fee. A guide related a fistfight with his friend over a coffin cover that they sold to a tourist for P1,500, a substantial amount for a teener in the early 1980s.

A mummy found in Lumiyang, which Mang-usan said he used to bring out for his clients' cameras, is no longer there. He said he never talked about this to his elders, knowing that the act might have required a serious ritual.

Even projects conceived to bring comfort to tourists proved to be a bane.

Despite protests from some sectors of the community, the pathway to the Matangkib Cave was paved with concrete in 1978. With the easy access, it is now the most desecrated cave of Sagada.

Protection

In 1994, the municipal government of Sagada came up with a resolution regulating local tourism. Among the results of the resolution were the organization of the Municipal Tourism Council (MTC), the licensing of guides, the standardization of guide fees, the strengthening of the Sagada Environmental Guides Association (Sega) where all local guides were members, and the charging of municipal tourism and cave entrance fees.

Immediately after the MTC was organized, it ordered the closure of the Matangkib and Crystal caves due to vandalism.

The Crystal, which is full of bleach-white stalactites and stalagmites (many, however, have been discolored by constant touching), was opened to the public only in 1986.

The entrances to the caves remain locked to this day, with a few guides having access to the keys.

The MTC also drew up guidelines for tourists' conduct inside the caves. The tourist guides were trained by the University of the Philippines Mountaineering Club on the fragility of caves and the need for vigilance in protecting them.

Environmental cops

In 1996, the guides were commissioned by the local government as "environment police" and gave them power to arrest violators of environment protection rules, especially those covering the caves.

Immense improvement in cave protection emerged from the 1994 resolution. But more things have to be done.

For instance, the P10 cave entrance fee was never really implemented. The lack of will to collect the fee could have come from the fear of the MTC that charging tourists fees would reduce arrivals, officials said.

There are also many complaints on the lack of transparency in the management of the collected tourism fees, which would be used only for environment-related activities.

Not all know, however, that many tourists are not paying the fees. Sometimes, only one would pay for a group and the guides would not demand the fair amount.

Today, Sega keeps about P100,000 collected from the tourism fees. "*Kasano manet ay mausal* (But how would it be used)?" asked Jed Angway, Sega chair.

Culture training

Angway said the guides needed training and seminars so they could become more effective environment policemen. "It would be good to hear from a caver or to see a concrete experience on cave protection," he said.

He stressed training on culture. "Many of us are culturally immersed, but sometimes we say different things on why our ancestors brought their dead to those very steep portions."

Angway also talked of the need to assert local rules. "Many of us just keep silent when there are tourists who question the rationale behind the tourism fee."

But many tourists were willing to pay.

In a survey conducted by Sega in April last year to get tourist feedback on the fees, 80 percent of both local and foreign tourists think the P10 fee was very small if it was meant for environment protection.

However, many of the respondents said Sagada must come up with brochures for tourists, including one that explains the fee and how it will be used.

"Guides could even show us programs or projects that would encourage us to support the payment of the fee or even give more," said Raul Monde, a tourist from Cavite.

Coffins

Aside from the strict prohibition of opening coffins, no significant policy changes were formulated to protect the burial caves.

Even the cave protection training and workshops for the guides focused more on the natural formations inside the caves. Visitors can still go to Lumiyang without guides and can touch the coffins.

"One problem is that people don't visit their dead in the caves," said David Fowler, an English artist and cave enthusiast who now lives in Sagada.

"This should give the MTC an opportunity to regularly visit the burial caves to assess the conditions of the coffins and then come up with measures of preserving them," he said.

"I think Sagada needs outside assistance. They should consult with experts on cave protection, especially on the preservation and even restoration of the coffins," said Judge Clarita Tabin of Baguio City who visited the cave twice.

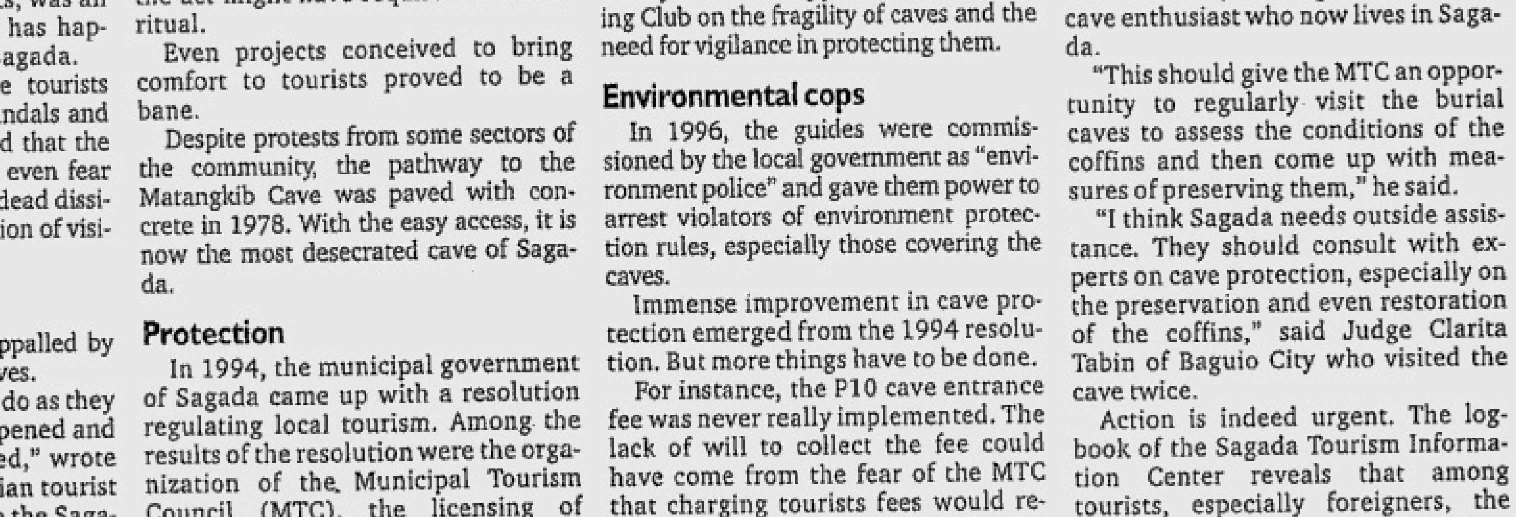
Action is indeed urgent. The logbook of the Sagada Tourism Information Center reveals that among tourists, especially foreigners, the burial caves are the more interesting places to visit. The coffins, and the stories behind them, are the unique features of Sagada's caves.

One resident, in a typical Sagada sarcasm, said: "*Dan no wada'y manemnem is para Sagada cave da't masiyat para turista* (Why is that when we think of something for the Sagada cave, it has to be for the tourists' benefit)?"

When painting is bliss

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

AFTER 23 years and eight months with the art section of the corporate communications office of the giant utility firm Meralco, Benjamin "Benjie" Mallari is starting afresh as a painter.



BENJIE Mallari's "Rainy Day Woman," "Namamayong" and "Mang Remy's Dream."

He also had past stints designing and layouting the Sunday supplement of Ang Pahayagang Malaya from 1984 to 1986, doing caricatures, and upon the request of businessman Eugenio Lopez Jr., he joined the art department of the revived Manila Chronicle for a few months in 1986 while keeping his Meralco job.

After crowning his career in the corporate world with the design of the Meralco History Museum at the Ortigas Center head office, in partnership with Roberto Paterno, this advertising graduate of the University of the East College of Fine Arts decided that the world of graphic arts entailed too many deadlines and unhealthy pressure.

When he retired in 2003, painting was uppermost in his mind. Today, he has an ongoing solo show, "Women Revisited," until Sept. 23 at Bliss Café at Wood's Place in Baguio City, his second after his first at Conspiracy Bar in Quezon City.

He admits to the strong influence of Baguio-based painter BenCab on him. "I like Ben's works for their uniqueness," Mallari, 50, explains.

"He gives old Filipiniana a modern interpretation. What distinguishes his works from those of other contemporary artists is that they're not loud and yet they have a strong appeal."

The two other artists he admires are the late Ibarra de la Rosa (for his colors that many have copied) and National Artist Fernando Amorsolo. He describes the latter's paintings as looking like "out of focus photographs but everything is there, and they're very Filipino."

Before painting his subjects in acrylic, he leafs through magazines, zeroes in on group photos and looks for a particular woman whose image he then blows up and draws.

For his "Namamayong" series, featuring an old woman carrying a umbrella over her head and whose back is turned, Mallari based his paintings on a series of photos he took of a woman walking beside an irrigation system in Candaba, Pampanga, where he was sent on assignment for Meralco News.

He likes to render his women and their backgrounds in subdued colors of purple, green, blue and gray until his children kid him and tell him to put some "hot colors," and he acquiesces.

These days he is kept busy commuting between his Binangonan and Baguio homes, with side trips to Cubi Point at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority where he is putting the finishing touches on the Haribon Foundation Gubat Learning Center that he designed.

This museum has an environmental thrust covering the lives of bats, the conservation of forests and marine life. He jazzed up the bats by turning them into stuffed toys.

The vampire bat, for example, is dressed in a leather jacket and sunglasses. Another bat is rendered in a Jamaican style a la Bob Marley while the fruit bat is clad in a bikini with a headdress of assorted fruits. To enter the bat room, one parts the cape of Batman.

The simulated forest has real trunks of trees and murals of forest life, artificial plants, a pond and a haze machine for ambience. The coastal portion stresses the preservation of mangroves.

As work on it winds down, the painter is mulling the subjects for his next solo exhibit that requires 40 paintings. He is not intimidated by the number because painting relaxes him. He can finish three pieces in a day when on a roll.

When he feels lazy, he can always drop the brush and attend to his two book designing jobs—on Filipino trailblazers in science and a biography of former first lady Luz Banzon Magsaysay, titled "Living Simply, Living Gently." In a way it is a lifestyle that Mallari has finally achieved.

Puerto sticks to antimining rule–Hagedorn

By Geraldford Ticke
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The city government of Puerto Princesa will remain firm on its stand against the entry of mining industries here despite the enactment of the Mining Act of the Philippines, Mayor Edward Hagedorn said.

"It is not true that the city government will already allow mining to enter the city of Puerto Princesa. What we are going to do is to make some amendments to the city ordinance opposing the entry of mining industry here—that it would not go against the Mining Act," he said.

The Sangguniang Panlunsod is now in the process of studying revisions to its resolution.

Hagedorn explained that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had sent a letter to the Sanggunian regarding the ordinance, saying that a local legislation cannot supercede a national law—referring to the Mining Act of the Philippines.

"However, we are still against the entry of the mining industry in the city because of the ill effects of mining, especially the exploration of nonrenewable resources," he said.

Int'l group says radiomen easy attack targets

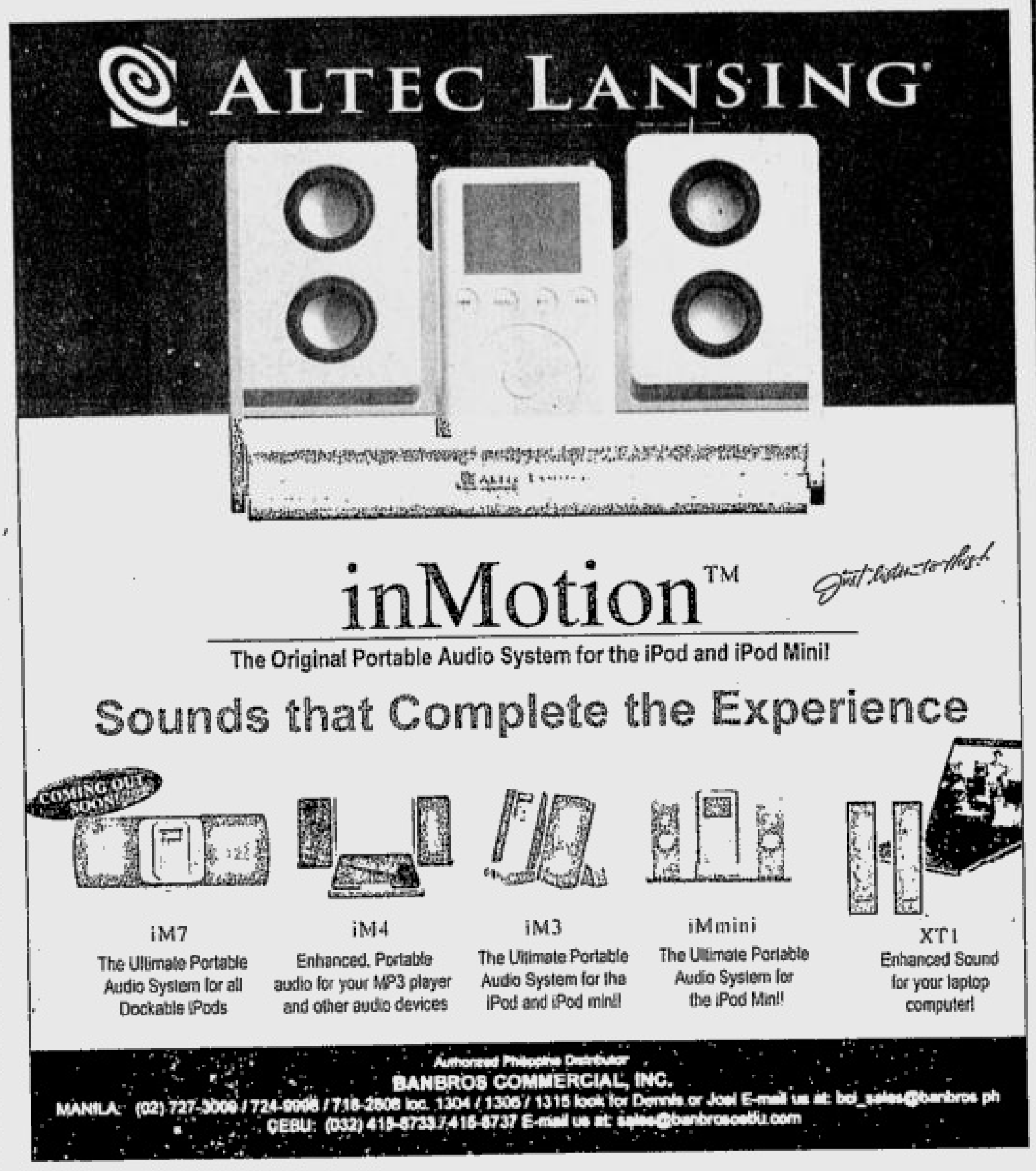
BROADCASTING from remote areas where the power of radio is strong and the rule of law weak, radio commentators are being gunned down in record numbers, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has found in a news report.

In "On the Radio, Under the Sun," CPJ's Abi Wright reported that the violence against broadcasters highlights the larger crisis of crime, corruption and lawlessness in the Philippines.

Seventeen radio commentators from the provinces have been shot and killed since 2000 in retaliation for what they said on the air, CPJ found, making the Philippines the most murderous country in the world for journalists.

A culture of guns and lawlessness fuels the violence, said the CPJ media release sent to the INQUIRER. Not a single suspect has been convicted in any of the killings. Government officials are suspected of involvement in half of the cases. Under threat from powerful officials and warlords, witnesses are often too fearful to testify. More than a half million illegal firearms, meanwhile, are propelling double-digit increases in the overall crime rate, said the CPJ report.

Wright, CPJ's Asia program coordinator, interviewed more than 40 journalists, analysts and government leaders over 10 days.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Drilon, Lacson shoot down Bro. Mike's 60-40 coalition plan

From page A1

broke her promise she would not run in 2004, there was no guarantee she would keep her word that she would agree to new elections in 2007.

Other senators also shot down Velarde's proposal.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the 60-40 Cabinet membership was a "surefire formula for executive paralysis."

Velarde said the coalition government, still to be led by Ms Arroyo, would serve as a transition to the new government to be elected in 2007. The elections would effectively cut Ms Arroyo's term by half.

The formula, according to the El Shaddai leader, would bring political stability to the country. He said Ms Arroyo had encouraged him to discuss it with the opposition.

Utopian

Santiago dismissed Velarde's proposal as "utopian, impractical and unrealistic."

"A motley Cabinet is a menace to governance, and a danger to President Arroyo. It will result in executive paralysis, and give the opposition the chance to remove her by a simple majority vote in the Cabinet," she said.

She said having the majority in the Cabinet would give the opposition the constitutional power to remove the President and replace her with the Vice President.

"All they need to do under the Constitution is to submit their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of her office," Santiago said.

To weaken impeachment

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said the President must have Cabinet members whom she trusts. "Cabinet positions are not items of commerce that would be proportionately apportioned."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of the LP, chided Velarde for meddling in politics.

"I think Mike Velarde should concentrate on his spiritual functions. He should not meddle [in] political controversies," Biazon said.

He said the coalition government appeared to be a ploy to weaken the impeachment process and resolve the charges against the President.

"If the opposition is offered 60 percent (of the Cabinet), what is this? Buying them out? What about the institutional processes? I am for reconciliation but this should not distract us (from the processes). Can the opposition be bought?" Biazon said.

Tagaytay meeting

Velarde and Ms Arroyo met once in Tagaytay City and twice in Velarde's office in Makati City before she appeared at Velarde's birthday Mass on Saturday.

He also discussed his proposal with deposed President Joseph Estrada, who attended the Mass after Ms Arroyo had left. Velarde had hoped that Ms Arroyo and Estrada would appear together and reconcile by signing a covenant.

Lacson said Velarde phoned him on Monday last week while Ms Arroyo was in the El Shaddai leader's office and invited him to a meeting.

The opposition senator said that Ms Arroyo had told Velarde that he (Lacson) was the one with "many witnesses against me" and that she specifically wanted him included in the reconciliation talks.

Meeting with Lacson

Lacson said he showed up at Velarde's office as requested and had a long meeting with the El Shaddai leader over lunch.

The senator said Velarde told him about the proposal for a coalition government of 60-40 Cabinet power-sharing and the holding of elections in 2007 through an amendment in the Charter.

Lacson said it was his impression that the proposal had been approved by the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

But Lacson said he made his counterproposal for snap elections within the year. He said Velarde asked for the legal basis and he said this could be done through a joint resolution approved by Congress and allowed by the President.

(BIG) BROTHER Mike Velarde has the ear of the President during the rites celebrating the birthday of the El Shaddai founder at the Quirino Grandstand on Saturday. RYAN LIM

Lacson said he did not know if Velarde relayed his position to Ms Arroyo.

After the meeting with Lacson, Velarde met with Drilon on Thursday, raising the same concept.

Drilon said he told Velarde that he would first wait for Malacañang's statement on the matter.

Parliamentary polls

A Palace official said the way he understood it, this was how the Velarde formula would work:

"The coalition government can take place if only we change the Constitution," the official said in a phone interview.

All political parties would first be asked to sign a "covenant for unity" that would include their commitment to pursue amendments to the 1987 Constitution, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Once the Charter is changed and the government has shifted from presidential to parliamentary, the official said this was when the coalition government would come in.

Asked if Ms Arroyo would figure in this coalition government, the official replied in the affirmative.

Trap

The official said Ms Arroyo's term would still end in 2010. "She may come in as head of state (in the parliamentary government)," the same official said.

In the House of Representatives, administration and opposition lawmakers also junked the Velarde proposal.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said that agreeing to Velarde's proposal would lead to a "hostaged presidency," with her Cabinet filled with a "hodgepodge of clashing personalities."

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the proposal was a "political trap" meant to destroy the opposition's credibility in the eyes of the public.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales said neither a spiritual leader like Velarde nor Ms Arroyo was in a position to decide the fate of this country.

"Excuse me, this is not about positions in government and getting any favors from GMA, (Ms Arroyo). This is about accountability. GMA should answer to the people, not just the minority. If the impeachment pushes through and she is found guilty, she is barred from office forever," Rosales said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said the so-called joint rule smacked of political accommodation. "It's elite politicians dealing (behind) the backs of the people." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac*

JDV backs Velarde proposal for 'coalition gov't'

By Philip C. Tubeza

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday threw his support behind calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to form a "coalition government" with the opposition, saying that ousted President Joseph Estrada was "receptive" to the idea.

De Venecia said he met three weeks ago with Estrada, the titular head of the opposition, in Tanay, Rizal.

"We talked about how to create a government of national unity, how to create a coalition Cabinet, which is what I have been pushing for since two years ago. He was receptive," De Venecia said.

He said they talked about "general principles" and not about specifics, like sharing Cabinet positions.

"There were no quid pro quos discussed, in all fairness to President Estrada. We were discussing only principles. We were not discussing numbers like how many Cabinet positions here. We're so far away from that," he said.

De Venecia said that there was no specific timetable for his proposal, but he added "The sooner, the better."

He said it was Estrada who invited him and his wife, Gina, to have lunch in the former President's 15-hectare, 14-bedroom villa in Tanay.

"He invited me to have lunch with him three weeks ago and we discussed the possibility of reconciliation, of an opportunity to unite the country, how to reduce the poison in the air, how to reduce destructive negative politics," De Venecia said.

He said he had always enjoyed good relations with the former President although Estrada defeated him in the 1998 presidential elections.

"We don't destroy each other unlike other politicians today," De Venecia said.

The Speaker said his wife and the Estrada family were close since they both had connections with the show biz industry.

Erap: I didn't say GMA to leave (Palace) in stroller; that's text joke

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo "will leave (Malacañang) in a stroller" in a story published by the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

"That statement did not come from me," Estrada told the INQUIRER.

The SCMP reporter, however, said Estrada himself made the statement when she interviewed him.

Estrada, a former actor known for his "Eraptions"—self-deprecating jokes he himself helped to spread knowing they endeared him to the *masa*—said the statement was taken from a popular text joke.

Estrada was quoted by the SCMP as saying that "Ferdinand Marcos left (Malacañang) by plane. I left by boat. She (Ms Arroyo) will leave by stroller" as he rebuffed the President's reconciliation offer.

Estrada was also quoted as saying that he had "a room specially prepared for her, and a pony, too."

"Why would I say something like that? I found God during my detention and I have forgiven my enemies because I realized that what happened to me is the will of God," Estrada stressed.

But Raissa Robles, who wrote the story for SCMP, stood by her story.

"That was a direct quote. I knew he was joking. That's why in the story, I put that he jokingly said it. But I did not know that he got that from text messages," Robles said.

She said she spoke with Estrada in the cardiopulmonary room of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center at around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Robles even took Estrada's pictures during the interview, she said, which was witnessed by at least 10 people, including Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

"In fairness, Estrada did not know I was coming," she said, although the former President recognized her. Robles used to cover Estrada in the Senate when she was writing for a local paper.

Denial No. 2

Estrada also denied rebuffing the reconciliation offer of Ms Arroyo, his Vice President who replaced him after he was ousted from power in 2001.

"All I am saying is this is not the time [to reconcile]," explained Estrada.

His son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, said the reconciliation talks were not true.

"The administration just wants to use President Estrada for its political survival," Ejercito said.

He said the administration apparently recognized that Estrada was still "immensely popular" even if he was under house arrest. Estrada elicited louder applause than Ms Arroyo did during their separate appearances at the mammoth El Shaddai rally on Saturday night.

Why only now?

Ejercito said he also doubted the timing and sincerity of the rumored reconciliation.

"Why only now? (Ms Arroyo) had visited President Estrada after Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres. But after the photo ops, the persecution continued," Ejercito said.

"There will be no reconciliation as long as there is persecution," he added.

The mayor said their family would rather pursue the plunder and perjury cases against Estrada in court than see him granted an amnesty or presidential pardon.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo earlier said reconciliation talks "are plain and simple politicking" because these would not prosper because of legal roadblocks.

Ploy

Former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman also dismissed the talks as a political ploy of the administration to make it appear that Ms Arroyo was trying to unite the country.

"Although she knows full well that she is the source of division," Soliman added.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday threatened to resign should the Sandiganbayan order the release of Estrada on recognizance.

If this happens, the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman would become a laughingstock, Villa-Ignacio said in a phone interview.

He explained that he could resign as lead prosecutor in Estrada's plunder and perjury cases and devote himself to other serious cases or he could just quit and become a "journalist" so he could write things about the judiciary.

Bad precedent

Villa-Ignacio also warned that the former President's release on recognizance would set a precedent.

"What are we going to do with Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia or other personalities facing serious offenses? Are we also going to release them on recognizance?" he asked.

Aside from setting a precedent, Estrada's release on recognizance would lead to a complete loss of trust in the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman, he added.

"*Sino pa ang maniniwala sa amin?* (Who's still going to believe us?)" Villa-Ignacio asked, adding that Estrada's release would also mean that the Ombudsman's antigraft campaign would have been for naught.

No to bail

When asked what he would do if the Sandiganbayan Special Division allowed Estrada to post bail, Villa-Ignacio said bail and recognizance were two different things.

"We will fight his motion for bail up to the Supreme Court," he said.

Last week, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor disclosed to the INQUIRER that reconciliation talks between the camps of Ms Arroyo and Estrada had begun, with the latter seeking his release from house arrest on recognizance.

Recognizance is the release of an accused without bail to the custody of someone of high moral standing in the community.

Estrada confirmed talking to Defensor about his possible release on recognizance, but the former President said this was based on the merits of his plunder case, not reconciliation.

Where, when of the 'Cry' still a puzzle 109 years after

From page A1

signifying the cutting of all ties with the Spanish colonizers.

Or did they? Historians disagree on the date and place.

But despite the debate on whether it was the "Cry of Pugad Lawin" or the "Cry of Balintawak" on Aug. 23, 1896, or Aug. 26, 1896, the Quezon City government went ahead with its anniversary celebration.

Spirit of details

The spirit of that slice of history is more important than the details, local officials seemed to say.

In simple rites, former President Fidel V. Ramos led city and barangay officials in laying wreaths at the Pugad Lawin Shrine in Banlat, Barangay Bahay Toro.

Ramos said present-day Filipinos were lucky in that they stood taller than ever before: "That's because we stand on the shoulders of giants—the heroes who fought for our freedom today."

He called on the youth to care for and enrich the freedom they were now enjoying.

"We Filipinos are blessed by history. We have so much to remember and much to be proud of," Ramos said.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said reliving history was food for the soul because only the past could define the present.

Belmonte has directed Victoria Loanzon, special assistant to the mayor, to request the National Historical Institute to have the Pugad Lawin Shrine declared a national shrine.

Other accounts

The shrine is said to mark the spot where Bonifacio and his fellow Katipuneros signaled the start of the fight for independence by tearing up their *cedulas*, according to Teodoro Agoncillo in his "History of the Filipino People."

But other historians have noted discrepancies in the place and date.

In "Kasaysayan: The Story of the Filipino People," Volume 5 ("Reform and Revolution"), Milagros C. Guerrero and John N. Schumacher, S.J., wrote:

"One tradition has spoken of the 'Cry of Balintawak'; another of the 'Cry of Pugad Lawin.' There are similar differences of opinion as to whether the date was Aug. 26 or Aug. 23. In any case, the general area was known as Balintawak, even if the event, as it seems, took place in Pugad Lawin on Aug. 23. The event was the decision to begin the revolt on Aug. 29, a decision accompanied by the Katipuneros tearing up their *cedulas*, the symbol of the recognition of Spanish sovereignty."

In "Tragedy of the Revolution," Adrian Cristobal wrote:

"There is still a raging controversy over the true date and place of the 'Cry'... The official date and place, based on historian Teodoro Agoncillo's account, is 23 August 1896 in 'Pugad Lawin.' However, to a new breed of historians, among them Dr. Milagros C. Guerrero, Ramon N. Villegas and Emmanuel N. Encarnacion, the official date and place is unverifiable outside of [Dr. Pio] Valenzuela's muddled account. Instead, 24 August 1896 is proposed, and at the barn of Tandang Sora (Melchora Aquino) in Gulod, now Barangay Banlat, Quezon City."

Cristobal suggested that the "better way" to resolve the issue was to "declare Aug. 23 to 29 'The Week of the Cry,' giving Pugad Lawin the benefit of the doubt, as part of Balintawak."

Photocopies

For all that, hundreds of activists yesterday made the Mabuhay Rotunda in Quezon City the new Pugad Lawin (or Balintawak) and symbolically severed ties with the Arroyo administration by tearing up their own cedulas and other "symbols" of oppression, such as gasoline and grocery receipts and matriculation papers.

But there was a catch: Many of them used photocopies.

"The *cedulas* were symbols of bondage for Andres Bonifacio and the Katipuneros, in the same way the VAT (expanded value-added tax) and other taxes are symbols of bondage for ordinary people," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 protesters had earlier converged on the southbound stretch of Quezon Avenue in front of the Sto. Domingo Church.

From there, members of Bayan, Gabriela and Anakbayan, among others, marched to the rotunda, where they held a program calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Barred from Manila

They wanted to proceed to Liwasang Bonifacio, but were blocked by Quezon City police from entering Manila.

Protest organizers argued that the groups had secured a permit from City Hall, but La Loma Police Station commander Allan Parreño said they had no permit from Manila.

"Every year, we make it a point to honor the Katipunan's legacy and the historic cry of Pugad Lawin," said Anakbayan secretary general Eleanor de Guzman.

"But this year, our celebration takes on another significant turn. We unite with the other sectors of society in calling for Ms Arroyo's immediate removal," De Guzman said.

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Hearings set for new tax rates in Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AFTER more than a decade, Makati City is reviewing its business tax rates and fine-tuning its local revenue code.

"Lately, the demand for high quality services is increasing so there is a need to adjust our tax rates as a city," City Secretary Rogelio Marasigan told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The Makati City Council will hold weekly public hearings for city-based businessmen next month to discuss the proposed new tax rates, for incorporation in the Makati Revenue Code.

The code is currently being revised. A draft city ordinance calls for the upgrading of current tax rates from municipal to city standards.

Marasigan said the last time Makati revised its revenue code was in 1992. Even after Makati became a chartered city in 1995, tax rates remained the same.

A 10 to 50 percent increase was proposed, depending on the nature of the business, Marasigan said.

He admitted that businesses might not welcome the proposed increase, given the current political and economic situation in the country.

"But we have to face the music," he said, adding that he, too, was "scared" about the move.

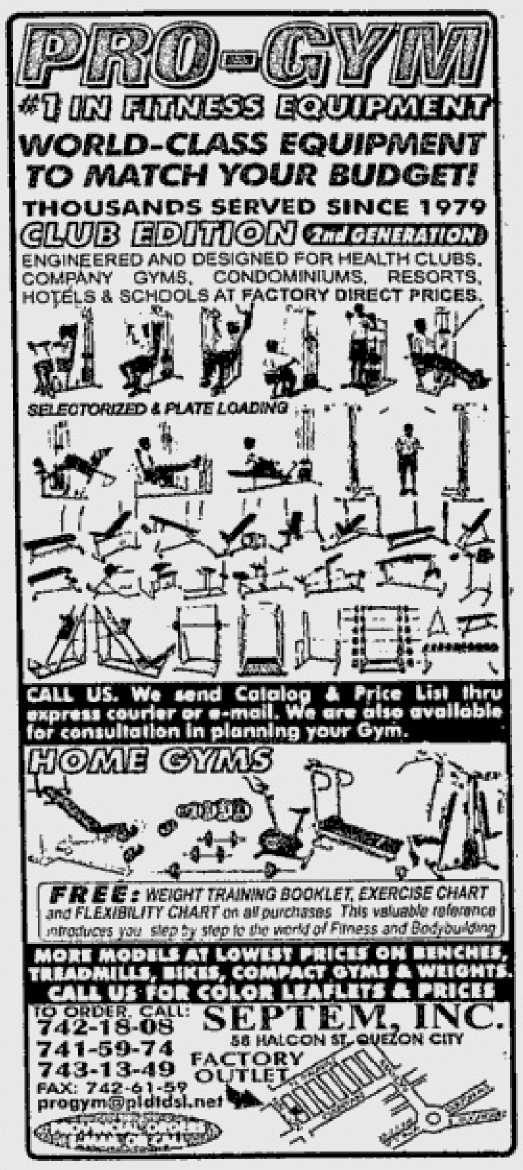
Revenues from the new tax rates would be channeled to projects that would further enhance the city government's services.

"We could use the money to upgrade security, protection and health services, and for the construction and rehabilitation of institutions like public school buildings and barangay centers."

The hike would benefit another project, the centralized Emergency Alert and Response System, which is expected to improve greatly the city's security and emergency response capabilities.

With the system, the Makati Command, Control and Communication (Makati C3) would be able to answer emergency calls from its communities and dispatch response teams such as the police, fire, emergency health and rescue services and other public safety agencies.

Marasigan, however, also emphasized that the new rates would be implemented only after the public hearings.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Solution to park crisis sought in court session

By Tina G. Santos

AFP PHOTO

ARTIST Meneses: 'I am outraged.'

ENVIRONMENT advocates have asked the court to subpoena Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to shed light on the issues hounding the controversial Arroceros Forest Park.

"We just want to get the side of the mayor at a hearing set in a Manila court next week," said Jojo Paras, counsel for Winner Foundation, caretakers of the park. Sought for comment, Atienza said: "We don't have to go that far, but if they insist, that would be fine."

Apart from Atienza, Paras said they had also asked the court to summon city councilor Bernie Ang to appear at the initial hearing today. Ang reportedly authored the resolution allowing the city government buy the 2.1-hectare park from the Land Bank of the Philippines during the term of then Mayor Alfredo Lim. Through a Memorandum of Agreement signed in November 1993, City Hall turned over the property to Winner Foundation, which prepared a 20-year forest development plan that ends in 2013. The park is home to more than 3,000 30-foot trees, some of them more than a century old. It also gives sanctuary to about a dozen bird species and has been cited by the National Museum as a treasure trove of botanical wonders and artifacts.

Winner Foundation had earlier filed a case against the city government to stop it from pushing through with the construction of a teachers' building in the area. City Hall workers had already began cutting and balling trees to prepare for the construction of the proposed building.

Atienza said that he is ready to come to terms with the environmentalists if only to fast-track the park's conversion into a botanical garden. "I'm extending a friendly hand to them so we can work together," he said. The mayor reiterated that the building would occupy only a small portion of the park.

"Ninety-percent of the park's total area would remain wooded," he said. "I could even commission them to be the caretakers of that area. It's not as if we were driving them away." But the mayor reiterated his stand that the teachers had the legal right to the property, which Winner does not have.

Environment advocates are opposing the construction of the building, saying the move would result in the destruction of trees and lush foliage inside what it called Manila's "last lung."

Last Sunday, artist Leo Meneses strolled along the banks of the polluted Pasig River for a painting session with his friends at Manila's last surviving forest park.

"I am only a painter, but I know that this place is special. When I first discovered it two years ago, I was happily surprised that in Manila's underbelly there is a forest," he said. "But now it is padlocked and trees are being murdered. I am outraged." *With AFP*

METROBRIEFS

New cars for Manila's Finest

HINDI NA KAMI MAPAG-IIWANAN!

MEMBERS of Manila's Finest are now more prepared to do battle. The Manila Police District's (MPD) 3,000-strong police force got a boost with the purchase of 10 brand-new patrol cars by the local government to enhance the mobility of the police unit. The 10 Chevrolet Optra sedans, each equipped with sirens and blinkers, were turned over to the MPD last Monday. Mayor Lito Atienza said the acquisition of the vehicles would beef up the police's capability in keeping peace and order in the city. "We're giving this to the police as additional support for the mobile patrol division of the WPD," Atienza said. "This is part of our regular support to our police force. We've been giving them patrol cars periodically to maintain their capability as crime fighters." Atienza added that the city government would acquire another batch of 10 cars for the MPD. "This would augment the number of patrol cars deployed daily in various parts of the city and would enable quick response to distress calls," he said, adding that mobile patrol teams have helped the city greatly in the city's drive against crime. *Tina G. Santos*

Bike patrol teams in Pasay

PAM-PALIIT NG TYAN!
BIKE PATROL

PASAY City is hitting, not two, but three birds with one stone with the implementation of its own bike patrol teams. Weeks before the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority aired its proposal to create bike lanes in the metropolis in view of the looming fuel crisis, Pasay City police had already launched bike patrol teams. Apart from helping the local government save on gasoline bills, the project was also seen as a more efficient means to respond to crime situations in the city and a better way to lose weight, Supt. Ulpiano Lopez, deputy for Pasay City police for operations told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Bike patrolmen would also find it easy to navigate our very narrow streets and they can weave their way in and out of traffic," he added. At present, the Pasay City police station has 15 bikes patrol teams, which are visible daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Taft and Gil Puyat Avenues (formerly Buendia), and Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Mass for Mother Ma. Carmen Reyes

MOTHER Maria Carmen Reyes of the Assumption Convent passed away yesterday. There will be a 6 p.m. Mass today for the late nun at the Assumption College Chapel, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. Burial is scheduled for Friday. Details will be announced later.

New play at Pius XII

DR. JOSEF D. Ubaldo, Dsc., National Chancellor of the International Association of Educators for World Peace-Philippines, a United Nations Non-governmental group, and author of the book "Wounded No More" will stage a pioneering, philosophical play entitled "Fetal Fatalle" ("*Sugatang Fetus*") on Sunday, 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center auditorium. Call 371-70-16 for details.

Fire official arrested for extortion

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested a fire official for extorting money from his men at the Makati Fire Department.

The suspect was identified as Fire Insp. Rolando Reodique of 127 Caimito St., Barangay Cembo, Makati City. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Reodique was the chief of the fire department's Office of Fire Prevention Section.

NBI-National Capital Region head Edmund Arugay said FO3 Lorenzo Navarro filed a complaint against the suspect for demanding P500 from him and his colleagues every week. Navarro said Reodique threatened to remove them from their positions if they refused to give him money.

At a press conference where Reodique was presented yesterday, FO2 Rosmar Sese said Reodique had told him that they were obliged to give him money. Sese, who claimed he paid the suspect P5,500, said around 20 firemen had similar complaints against Reodique.

NBI agents arrested the suspect while he was receiving marked money from Navarro during an entrapment operation inside his office last Friday. Reodique, however, denied the accusations and said he would explain himself in court.

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August 25, 2003 10:00-11:00 am	Opening Ceremony
2:00 - 3:00 pm	New Opportunities with Powder Metallurgy (PM) Steels for Tooling Applications by: ASSAB Venue : Seminar Room 1 Allen Specialty Seminar Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Heat Treatment by: Philippine Metalcasting Associations Inc. / Fee: Php 400.00 Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00 pm	"Ductile Iron the Foundry Man Dream" by: Philippine Metalcasting Association Inc. Fee: Php 400.00 / Venue: Seminar Room 2
August 26, 2005 10:00 - 11:00 pm	Heat Treatment & Problem and Their Solutions by: Penta Technological, Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Automation in Machine Building in the Philippines by: OEMAP Venue: Seminar Room 1 Starret Measuring Instrument by: MAedan Enterprises Venue: Seminar Room 2
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Mitutuyo Form Machines by: MESCO, Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Designing Molds, Quickly, Accurately and Cause Effective with Solidworks by; SEACAD Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30	SYSTEM 3R Seminar by; MESCO Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Solid Edge Version 17 Design with Insight by: Technologix Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00	Licom Alpha CAM 2-5 axis CNC Machining Easy and Powerful by: Nicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1
August 27, 2005 10:00 - 11:30 pm	Alibre Design Product Presentation by: A&A Maquinas Ferramentas and MDC Venue: Seminar Room 2
10:00 - 12:00 pm	3 Metal Mania: 3M Innovations for the Metal Industry by: 3M Philippines Venue: Seminar Room 1
2:00 - 3:00 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1 Technical Innovations for the Die & Mold Industry by: Level Asia & CIM Technologies Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1 Admac Programming Software by; Penta Technology, Inc.
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Licom-AlphaCAM, 2-5 axis CNC Machining easy and powerful by: Nicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1

FREE ENTRANCE / Exhibit Hours: Aug. 25-27 10:00am - 6:00 pm; Aug. 28 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Philippine Die & Mold Association, Inc.
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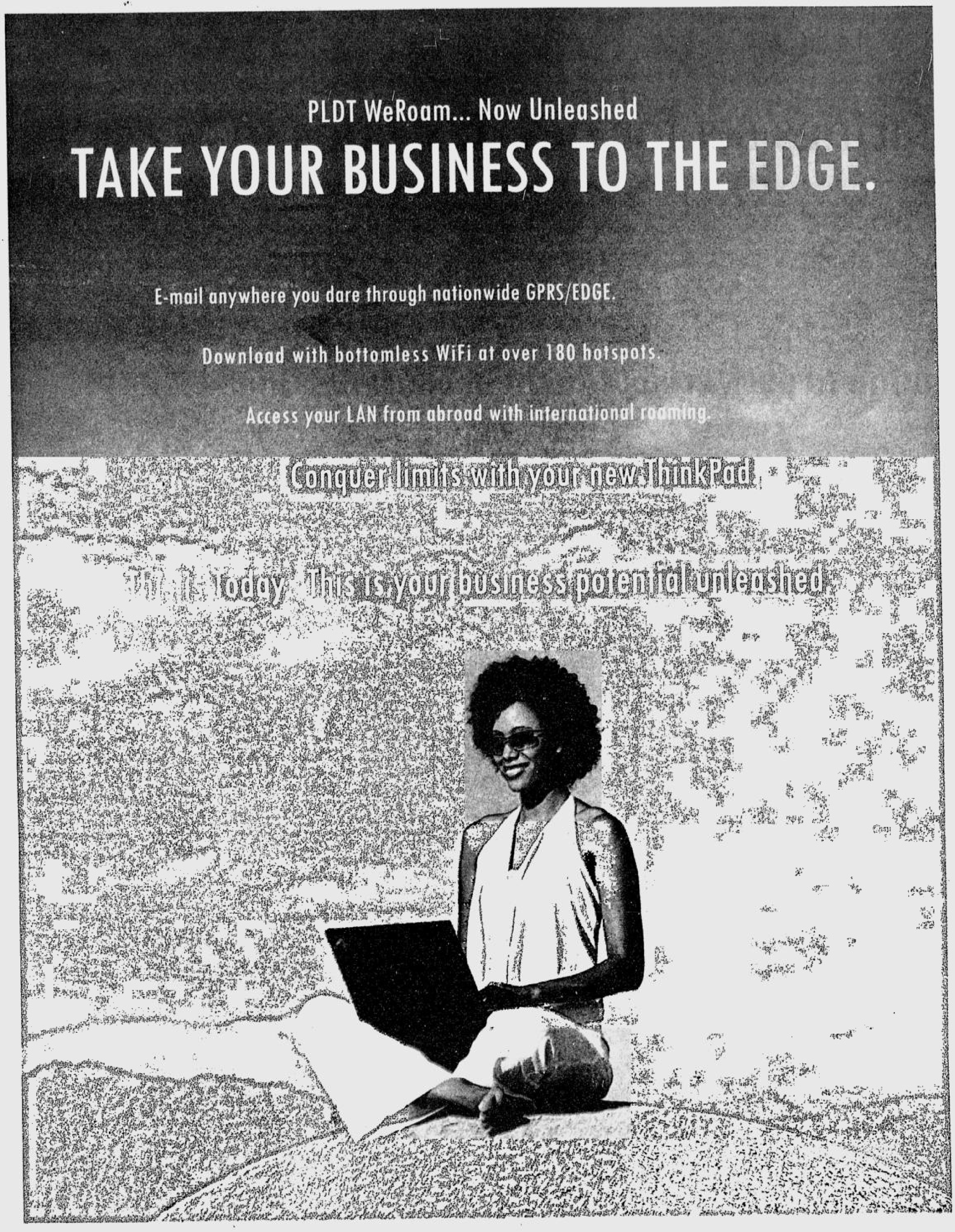

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Safeway Classic; 2 p.m.; ESPN – The action moves on to the second round.

BADMINTON: 2005 World Badminton Championships; 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. (r); STAR Sports – Take another look at the quarterfinals from Anaheim.

POOL: 2005 World Pool Championship; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN.

Aces rout China's Lions

MacClary stars as fast-starting Alaska nails first win in Brunei caging

BRUNEI—Alaska used a quick start and a sticky defense in the second period to rout Shandong

ALASKA ACES/ A27

95 days to go before the

23rd SEA Games

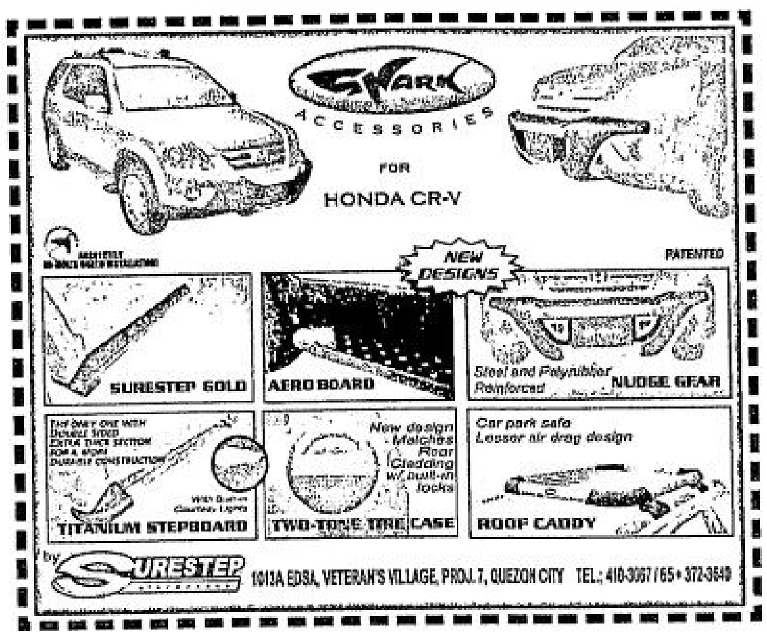
Bad timing for athletics?

THE BIGGEST arena of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games—Rizal Memorial track and field oval—will feel the crunch of the lack of funds hounding preparations for the biennial meet. With the bill for a new electronic scoreboard estimated to be about P13 million, track and field association president Go Teng Kok yesterday said it's not entirely far-fetched that track action may be timed using hand-held devices. The Philippine Sports Commission has promised to put up a modest digital timing device. Still a lot better than the outdated grand apparatus that has adorned the venue for many years.

* * *

The Philippines' chances of winning the triathlon gold medals in the Games rests

BAD/ A26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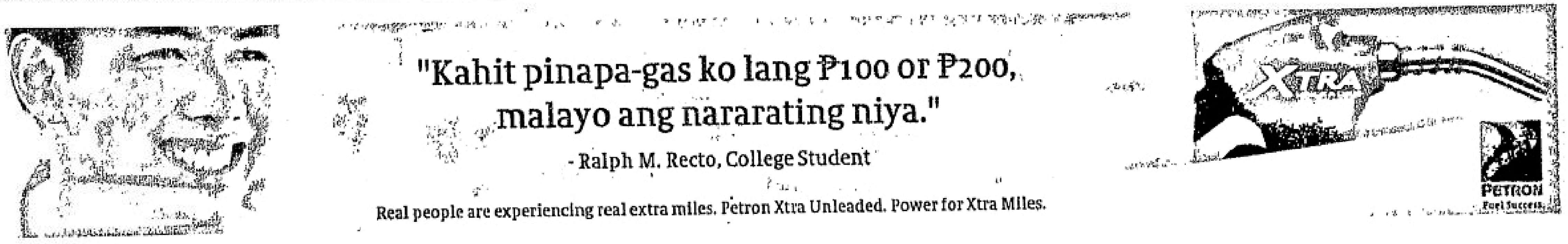

"Kahit pinapa-gas ko lang ₱100 or ₱200,
malayo ang nararating niya."
- Ralph M. Recto, College Student
Real people are experiencing real extra miles. Petron Xtra Unleaded. Power for Xtra Miles.
XTRA
PETRON Fuel Success

Pacquiao taps Shaw in place of Muhammad

MANNY Pacquiao (right) with Sept. 10 foe Hector Velazquez. AP

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

FILIPINO boxing icon Manny Pacquiao has signed up with New Jersey-based Gary Shaw, making the American his exclusive promoter in the United States.

Shaw replaced Murad Muhammad, who figured in a court battle with Pacquiao before offering a settlement early this year.

"As a promoter, you always hope to sign a 'blue chip' athlete who will win a world title," said Shaw, who heads Gary Shaw Productions.

"Today, I have signed a 'platinum chip' world-class champion whose persona transcends sports and approaches folklore in the Philippines. I feel privileged that Manny has chosen me as his promoter."

Pacquiao will join undisputed lightweight king Diego Corrales and undisputed super-middleweight king Jeff "Left Hook" Lacy in Shaw's formidable stable.

Shaw started the Gary Shaw Productions in 2002. A former member of the New Jersey State Athletic Commission from 1971-1998, Shaw used to run Main Events as its chief operating officer for four years before moving on to found his own company.

Shaw's outfit has promoted or co-promoted notable fights in the last seven years, including: Lennox Lewis versus Mike Tyson; Felix Trinidad versus Fernando Vargas; Jose Luis Castillo versus Diego Corrales; Lewis versus Vitali Klitschko; Tyson versus Clifford Etienne; Tyson versus Danny Williams; Trinidad versus Winky Wright; Shane Mosley versus Wright and Lewis versus David Tua.

"Manny has a superb management team in Shelly Finkel, Nick Khan and Keith Davidson, as well as a Hall-of-Fame caliber trainer in Freddie Roach," said Shaw.

"I look forward to working together with them and I am truly honored that the team has placed its confidence in me."

Pacquiao, a former WBC flyweight and IBF superbantam champion, as well as Ring Magazine featherweight king who holds a 39-3-2 (31 KOs) record, will battle Mexican Hector Velazquez, 42-10-2 (31 KOs), in a 12-round bout on Sept. 10, at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Tracksters target 16 SEAG golds

By Musong R. Castillo

ATHLETICS is looking at winning its most number of medals in the coming Southeast Asian Games and eclipsing a couple of records along the way.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) president Go Teng Kok and coach Jojo Posadas boldly predicted a haul of up to 16 gold medals in the biennial meet, which will eclipse the country's best performance of 11 in the 1983 Singapore SEA Games.

Posadas said 12 golds are almost in the bag. If his forecasts are correct and if the athletes achieve their personal bests, SEA Games standards in the men's hammer and the women's and men's long jumps will fall by the wayside.

Arnel Ferrera is a cinch to win the hammer event, his personal best of 57.14 meters just a shade off the SEAG mark which the Filipino will aim to break in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 meet among 11 nations.

Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Maristela Torres both equaled the long-standing Philippine mark of 6.56 meters of the great Elma Muros-Posadas in the women's long jump last year.

Muros-Posadas also owns the SEAG mark of 6.52 m and Bulauitan-Gabito and Torres seem primed to establish a new one after the hostilities in Manila and three other satellite venues.

The SEAG men's long jump standard of 7.79 m is the other mark which Posadas feels is breakable, with Henry Dagmil owning the RP mark of 7.81 m.

Meanwhile, Go told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila that the Philippines will not be taking part in at least 20 of the 46 events in track and field, opting to save money by not including players whom he said do not stand a chance.

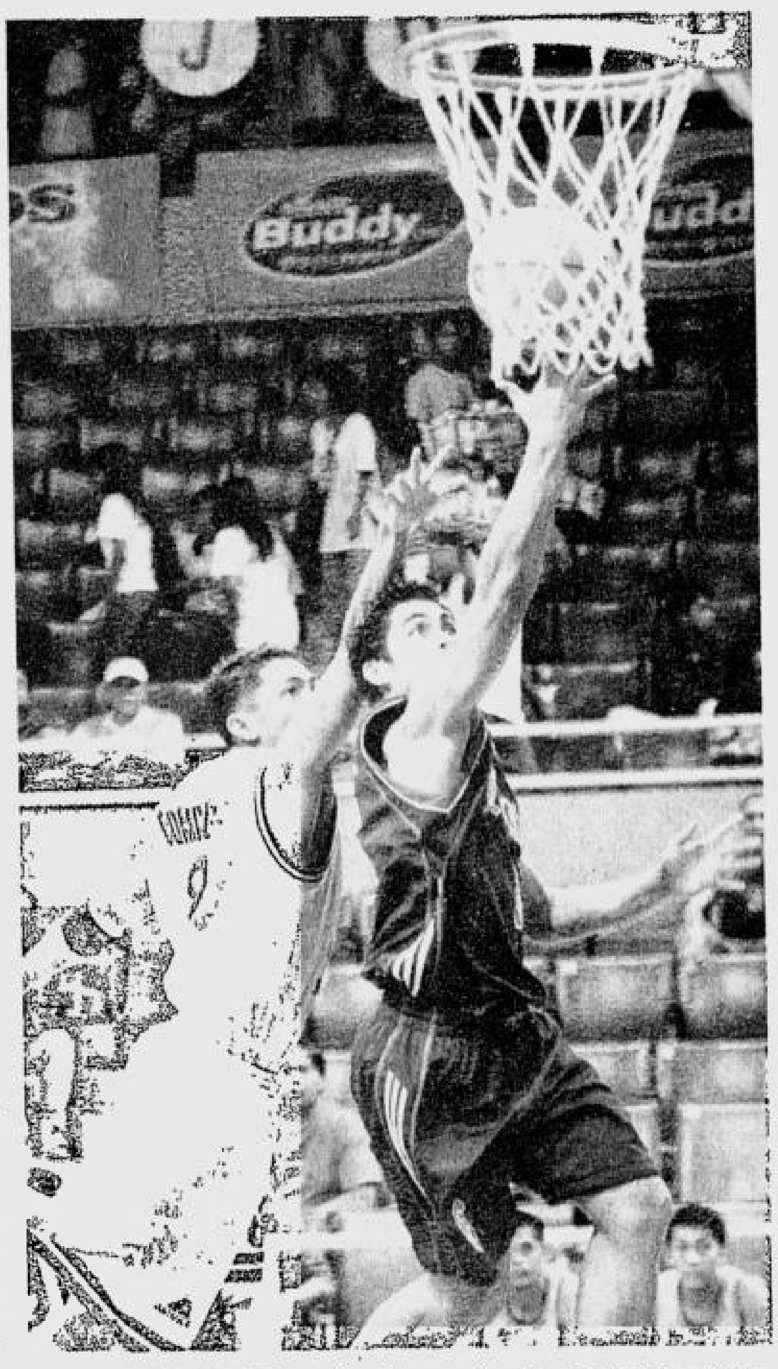
"We cannot accommodate athletes from all events because of budget constraints," Go said.

"If the Patafa has but P100 for the athletes, I'd rather we spend it on athletes who have a chance at winning."

Rene Herrera (3,000m steeplechase), Allan Ballecer and Roy Vence (men's marathon), Cristabel Martes (women's marathon), John Lozada and Midel Dique (800m and 1,500m), Danilo Presnido (javelin), Ernie Candelaria (400m) and Ed Buenavista in the 5,000m and 10,000m runs all have 90 percent chances of winning.

Posadas said the men's 4x400m and 4x100m men's teams, Roberto Presnido in the decathlon and Mercidela Manipol in the women's 5,000m and 10,000m runs have at least 75 percent chances of bagging the gold.

The Philippines won eight gold medals in the 2003 Vietnam Games, the same number it won 14 years ago when it last hosted the Games and fell one gold medal short of winning the overall championship in 1991.


LETRAN'S John Paul Alcaraz breaks away from Jose Rizal University's Jenciano Domancas for a layup during their recent game. RYAN LIM

Knights stake amazing streak against Mapua

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	11	0
PCU	9	2
Mapua	7	4
SSC	6	5
Perpetual	4	8
St. Benilde	4	8
San Beda	3	9
JRU	2	10

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs Perpetual (Jrs)
2 p.m.—JRU vs Perpetual (Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (Srs)

THE MAPUA Cardinal's biggest chance at cracking Letran's seemingly impregnable armor may come from the Knights themselves, who have been flashing a streak of complacency most glaring in a struggling victory over St. Benilde last week.

"We can't play like that because our job isn't over," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

Still, the odds are stacked against the Cardinals as they try to halt the Knights' winning streak at 11 matches when the two squads meet at 4 p.m., which follows the 2 p.m. match where the University of Perpetual Help Altas try to keep their Final Four hopes alive against the Jose Rizal U Bombers.

Mapua will be eyeing the No. 2 slot, which comes with the twice-to-beat edge that will be crucial in the semifinal stage of the tournament.

"We'll go hard in our last three games," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim, whose wards will end against top teams Letran, Philippine Christian U and San Sebastian. "It's the moon we're shooting for but we're optimistic that we can at least tie with PCU."

"Defense is our element," added Lim. "We just have to work on our set offense."

For the Altas, the Bombers pose less of a threat than the situation the team is currently in, especially with just one Final Four slot open for takers. Letran, PCU and Mapua have already sewn up the top three positions, though not necessarily in that order.

"We still have a chance but we're not in total control," said Altas coach Bai Cristobal.

The Altas and the idle Blazers must sweep their last two games, and at the same time, hope that the fourth-running San Sebastian Stags lose all their matches to forge a playoff for the last semifinal berth.

The Knights are three games shy of a sweep of the entire elimination round, a feat that will earn them an automatic berth in the championship. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP lady booters need new 'godfather'

By Musong R. Castillo

PHILIPPINE women's football is looking for a new godfather.

With just three months left before the 23rd edition of the Southeast Asian Games is played in Manila and three other key cities, women's football is still scrounging for funds to make things happen.

"We appreciate the post-event pledges, like the money for the gold medalists," said team manager Cathy Rivilla. "But (women's) football needs funding now. We have a decent chance at winning (gold), but we need logistical support."

Rivilla said that Jack Rodriguez, who owns a chain of Italian restaurants, was appointed as women's football godfather by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of the FG Sports Foundation.

"We have been talking to Mr. Rodriguez almost every week, and he has been saying that he does not have the funds to give us," said Rivilla, who was among the guest in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan restaurant in Manila. "We are trying to think positively. But thinking positively alone cannot solve our requirements."

Women's football needs at least P1.5 million to fund its training and satisfy its equipment requirements.

Ernie Nierras, owner of Pythos Technology Philippines, shares management chores with Rivilla. Both of them have shelled out personal money in the lead-up to the football competition of the Games.

Rivilla believes that the Philippines, which finished fifth in Vietnam in 2003, has a shot at winning after bagging the silver medal in a pre-SEAG tournament in Malaysia recently.

"We even think that bronze is easy, but as hosts, we will go for no less than the gold medal," Rivilla said at the forum sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

No way will Keon call a cat a tiger

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HIS TEAMMATES disagreed and tried to make Michael Keon appear like a liar.

Truth is that Keon was not merely showboating when he warned how the Philippines has been lagging behind in the mission to win the overall championship of the Southeast Asian Games.

The country has been losing its homecourt edge, Keon said without mincing a word.

Well, he could have worded his assessment of things more kindly.

But that's Keon for you, he doesn't call a cat a tiger.

He hit the nail on the head, so to say, when he warned of sputtering preparations.

The other bigwigs behind the SEA Games preparations, like Robert Aventajado, should have heeded the warning instead of take issue with Keon.

Keon has always been known to be a no-nonsense sports leader, he has no record whatsoever of shady dealings.

For one, Keon was nowhere near around Mindanao during the sensational Dos Palmas hostage-taking standoff when a top local negotiator close to Erap Estrada had been accused of spiriting out a hefty dollar portion of the ransom.

* * *

Instead of ganging up on the man behind the successful Project: Gintong Alay during the Marcos regime, other major players behind the SEA Games should be thanking the fellow.

Anyway, the Philippines will indeed enjoy a tremendous edge over its Southeast Asian neighbors in the race for the overall championship, last won by host Vietnam in 2003.

That's a given, it's been tradition in the biennial SEA Games for the host to enjoy more than enough moving room in its overall title quest.

Before Vietnam, Malaysia also did it in 2001, although that feat tragically coincided with the 9-11 Holocaust that devastated America and shook the whole world.

The Gloriagate mess, although it continues to divide the nation, cannot be compared to the horrors caused by the 9-11 attacks.

Expectations, therefore, are quite high for RP to finally nail down its first ever SEA Games title since joining the former Peninsular Games in 1977.

But listen here: winning the SEA Games title can never be a fool-proof gauge of a host country's might and excellence in the field of sports.

No matter how they try to hide it, a lot of homecourt advantage is automatically enjoyed by the host country.

Neighborly accommodation often overtakes pure sportsmanship.

It would indeed be a big disappointment if RP fails again after missing the overall title by one gold medal (behind Indonesia) when we last hosted the Games in 1991.

RP must start to snarl tiger-like, instead of purr like a cute cat.

For Mike Keon would not mind being proven wrong, if only to boost the sputtering Philippine charge for the overall SEA Games crown.

* * *

That's it. But before we close this day's column, let's listen to boxing expert Hermie Rivera, who has some urgent grievances to air:

Dear Recah,

Ever wondered why sports is in such a dire mess?

Blame it on rampant graft which remains unabated due to our failure to punish the guilty. There's no one of note who is serving a stint at the New Bilibid for stealing privately or emptying the coffers publicly.

The latest victim of these "incorrigibles" is no less than Manny Pacquiao who had to settle the cases he filed against his ex-bosses who bled him dry since he skyrocketed to fame.

After blasting to submission his erstwhile handlers, the hardworking GenSan campaigner handed his sleaze-tinted operators their costly ruin, thus freeing him from their flagrant clutches for now.

How much was paid by Murad Muhammad to Manny for the settlement is undisclosed, obviously to keep the Internal Revenue Service and the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the dark—for the nonce.

Rod Nazario is quiet as a clam as expected, so we'll never get to know how much greenbacks rolled into Pacquiao's banks.

Manny, emerging the clear victor against his employers, validated the efficacy of the Ali Boxing Reform Act which now serves as beacon for abused fighters.

Well done, Mr. Pacman. Now if only the problems of other ill-fortuned "great unwashed" are addressed, such as the long-delayed decision on the Luisito Espinosa case whereby about $150,000 remain unpaid to the two-time champ.

Last heard, Louie is still punching the bags like crazy at some West Coast gyms hoping a promoter can book him a fight or two to keep body and soul intact. An occurence not likely to happen since the priority of those who can be of help is way off field—jueteng.

Till the next mail—keep punchin'.

Hermie Rivera

NAASCU CAGING

Hawks make it 84

By Marc Reyes

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	11	0
St. Clare	8	2
STI	6	4
AMACU	6	7
New Era	5	5
CEU	4	7
UMak	3	7
Holy Angel	1	6
PLP	1	8

THERE still is no end in sight to University of Manila's win streak, leaving the rest of the field scrambling for semifinal slots yesterday in the Naascu basketball tournament at the UM gym.

Centro Escolar and University of Makati hacked out crucial wins to keep their semifinal hopes alive and share the spotlight with the UM Hawks, who preserved their spotless league record with an 88-69 trashing of AMA Computer.

It was the Hawks' 84th straight victory since 2001 and their 11th this season.

CEU leaned on James Cordero, who scored six points in the fourth period to lift the Scorpions (4-7) to a 57-54 win over the STI Olympians.

With STI up, 48-46 with 1:32 left, Cordero banged in four straight points to put the outcome beyond doubt.

In the other seniors match, James Mangaran scored 31 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to help University of Makati skip past Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 78-74.

In junior play at the New Era Gym, St. Clare (8-1) leaned on the Marlon Gomez's 19 points, 24 rebounds and eight assists—to rip host New Era U (7-2), 87-71.

HAWKS/ A28

Bad timing for athletics?

From page A25

on small people. Ani Karina de Leon spearheads the women's team. She broke the old RP record set by Nancy Pajarillo by more than five minutes in a tournament in Singapore last month with a time of two hours, 20 minutes and 26 seconds. The 32-year-old, 5-foot-2 De Leon is a wonderful physical specimen, with muscles packed tightly in all the right places. Meanwhile, Noel Salvador is 32, his 90-lb 4-11 frame making up half of the RP Men's team.

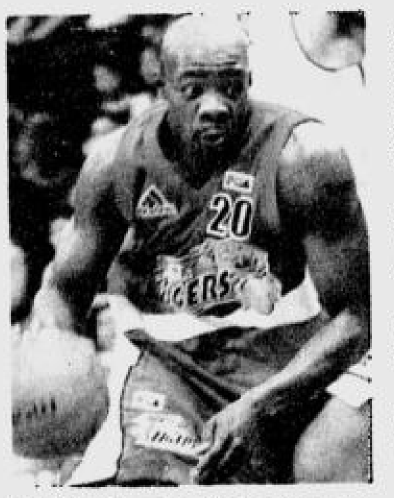
* * *

Eugene Torre, Asia's first Grandmaster and the country's foremost name in the sport, has told chess officials that he would like to give up his slot in the national rapid team in favor of defending SEAG champion Mark Paragua. In exchange, Torre wants to be seeded to the standard team roster, which he missed following the brouhaha in the National Chess Federation of the Philippines' qualifying tournament two months ago.

Alaska Aces rout Shandong Lions

From page A25

Jinsidun Lions of China, 84-53, for its first win Monday night in the 5th Shell Rimula Cup at the National Indoor Stadium here.



TIM MacClary: Fantastic, says Cone.

Artemus "Tee" MacClary had another solid performance for the Aces, who buried the memory of their 82-85 loss to SK Knights of South Korea in the opener on Sunday to get back on track in the four-nation, six-team tournament.

The 6-foot-2 MacClary fired 24 points, justifying his selection as Alaska's reinforcement in the PBA Reinforced Conference this October.

Mike Cortez added 13 markers and four assists, Brandon Cablay posted 11 points and three steals and Reynel Hugnatan came away with 10 points and five rebounds.

"He's fantastic," Alaska coach Tim Cone said of the 31-year-old MacClary, who already has two PBA titles, one with Talk 'N Text in the 1998 Centennial Cup and the other with Coca-Cola in the 2003 Reinforced Conference.

"He's what the doctor ordered for us," added Cone. "He does a lot of the little things—going to the boards, shooting the treys, going to the basket. He's very unselfish and talks to his teammates a lot."

Alaska's original choice was Damien Cantrell but the former Talk 'N Text import asked for the moon.

MacClary, the 2003 Reinforced Best Import, is four inches shorter than the height ceiling of 6-foot-6 approved for this year's Reinforced.

Alaska erected an early 27-15 lead after the first quarter with MacClary and Hugnatan matching the total output of the Chinese.

Cablay opened the second period with back-to-back three-pointers and Cortez provided one of the highlights of the game with a no-look behind-the-back pass to Hugnatan for a one-hand slam.

With MacClary outscoring the entire Lions, the Aces posted a 47-22 halftime lead. MacClary tallied eight points against the Lions' seven in the second quarter.

The Aces widened the gap after the third period, 70-41, giving Cone the luxury of resting MacClary in the final canto. Cone wants MacClary to be in top form for a crucial Tuesday night game against Toshiba-Japan, the team that upset the RP-San Miguel Beer last Sunday.

"We have a big game tomorrow and I was shocked when Toshiba beat the Philippine team," said Cone, who handed Shandong its third loss in as many games.

"Hopefully we can pull this one because we really want to go to the top four and maybe in the finals."

The top four teams after the single-round elimination will advance to the knockout crossover semifinal round on Saturday, with the winners colliding for the title on Sunday.

The champion squad gets $20,000 while the runner-up pockets $10,000.

The scores:

ALASKA 84—MacClary 24, Cortez 13, Cablay 11, Hugnatan 10, Padilla 8, Thoss 6, Allado 5, Franco 5, Wilson 2, Alvarez 0, Hawkins 0, Calpito 0.

SHANDONG 53—Zhiming 14, Mingtao 13, Xiaodong 9, Zhenzua 5, Gang 5, Yu 3, Bing 3, Xuelin 2.

Quarters: 27-15, 47-22, 70-41, 84-53

RICHER BY $10,000

Django pulls NY sweep

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante of the Philippines rallied from three racks down to beat Dennis Hatch, 13-11, and rule the 2005 Joss Tour Season Finale at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York.

The former world No. 1 swept the tournament, including victories over compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes and two-time world champion Johnny Archer.

Hatch came all the way from the losers' bracket to challenge Bustamante. He prevented an all-Filipino finale after surviving Reyes.

With his power breaks not working at the onset, Bustamante saw Hatch race to a 5-2 lead. Bustamante quickly recovered, however, taking the next six racks for an 8-5 edge.

The win earned Bustamante $10,000, his biggest pay check this year. Hatch settled for $6,000.

Reyes finished third and pocketed $4,000 while Archer placed fourth and earned $3,000.

Another legendary Filipino cue artist, Jose "Amang" Parica, finished in a tie for fifth and sixth spots with former world champion Ralf Souquet of Germany.

Bustamante and Reyes are also expected to have another big payday in October when they compete in the Philippine 9-Ball Open.

Both are seeded in the main draw of the event co-organized by Solar Sports and Puyat Sports.

DJANGO Bustamante completes big fightback.

Luzvimin golf fires off today in Cebu

CEBU—Twenty-two teams from all over the country are vying for honors in the 13th edition of the Luzvimin Invitational which tees off today at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Competing in the three-day interclub golf tournament organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines are Alabang, Alta Vista, Bacolod Golf, Baguio Country Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Cebu Country Club, Club Filipino, Del Monte, Forest Hills, Iloilo Golf, John Hay, Mactan Coral Golf Club, Manila Golf, Negros Golf, Pamplona, Philippine Navy, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Manila Southwoods, Victorias, Villamor and Wack Wack.

Teams can field as many as six players each day with the best four scores counting for the team total in the tournament supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Airlines as the official carrier.

Scoring will be under the Molave format and teams will be fighting for the top awards in three divisions—Diamond, Ruby and Pearl.

Tournament officials including overall chair Nancy Ortiga, vice chair Ada Martinez, tournament chair Remy Salas and Phine Obmaces expect another exciting play this year.

Top bets for the individual category honors are defending champion Lora Roberto, Carmelette Villaroman, Lovelyn Guioguio, Eva Miñoza, Carina Ricamonte, Matet Salivio, Jocel Pagunsan and jungolfer Kathleen Uy.

Philsoc enlists Lyceum studes for SEAG duties

THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) has signed an agreement with the Lyceum of the Philippines, making the university a partner in the hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. Philsoc awards committee chief Tani Gonzales and Lyceum president Roberto Laurel signed the agreement in simple rite at the school's administration office in Intramuros, paving the way for students of the university to be tapped as volunteers and award stewards during the 11-nation biennial meet from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. "We're proud and happy for Lyceum to become a partner in the country's bid for a successful SEA Games hosting," said Gonzales.

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IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IN A matter of less than 2 hours, I managed to accomplish several things in one place last Sunday noon: I got to interview Talk 'N Text head honcho Manny V. Pangilinan and PBA governor Ricky Vargas who I both later introduced to Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero; I had a short but productive talk with Basic Holdings President and CEO Wilson Young and Mayor Bubong Lacson of San Carlos, Negros, who I both met only for the first time; I managed to squeeze in some exchange of updates with Bahrain-based Bobby Calimoso, one of the promoters of last year's Bahrain Goodwill Games where the Sta. Lucia Realtors were invited to play; and I also renewed acquaintances with Jojo and Jenny Pumaren who flew in from Los Angeles with their daughter Jennifer just to attend the christening of the 2-month old Milo Pumaren, only son and youngest child of their Manong Derick and wife Millette.

Bubong, Bobby and Jenny stood as sponsors or *ninongs* and *ninang* while all the others, including myself were among the 200-or-so guests of the celebrity-studded affair, also graced by the likes of De La Salle University Green Archers team manager Terry Capistrano and his assistant Manny Salgado, UE EVP and Warriors team manager Carmelita Mateo, movie/tv comedian Jimmy Santos, TNT coach Joel Banal and his new assistants Bong Ramos and Bong Ravena, who has retired from active playing, Harbour Centre coach Tonichi Yturri and PBA cagers Vergel Meneses and Omanzie Rodriguez. I'm sure I missed so many other celebs, but my visual range could only take in all those I mentioned.

* * *

At the TNT table where I was first stationed, I got to ask MVP if they were also interested in acquiring top rookie pick Anthony Washington from Fedex, in addition to MacMac Cardona.

His answer: "We're interested in Larry Fonacier (from Ateneo, who was drafted by Red Bull)."

"AND Anthony Washington," he added after a long silence. MVP didn't sound very serious, though.

"If we can get him (Washington), we will," clarified Ricky Vargas.

As for Fonacier, a scribe said the cager, though injured, can only be had "over Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao's dead body."

* * *

I was in for a surprise when I was introduced to Basic Holdings' Wilson Young whose name was often mentioned during the time when Tanduay was still part of the PBA. Basic Holdings is the umbrella organization of Lucio Tan companies, and though invisible then, Wilson was indirectly involved in the Tan franchise, since he made all the major decisions concerning the Tanduay team.

I've always envisioned Wilson to be Chinese looking, stiff and businesslike, but he was none of the above.

Wilson is a legitimate Fil-Am, who looks very Fil-Am. Young is not Chinese, but is as American as apple pie. While his name sounded daunting before I met him personally, Wilson seemed like a regular guy who's easy to like. I don't know if his name has anything to do with it, but he certainly looked younger than I had imagined.

* * *

Wilson and Mayor Bubong were airing their concerns about the current state of Philippine basketball and the dreadful prospects we face in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games in November.

Mayor Bubong said that with the event fast approaching and without a glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel, perhaps it's time that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo step into the picture.

"To save basketball, which all Filipinos love," he said, agreeing that instead of appealing to the FIBA for the lifting of RP's suspension, she should appeal to the POC and the NSA's for the BAP's reinstatement.

Mayor Bubong promised to initiate steps to get RP basketball back into the SEA Games.

* * *

Got a faxed letter sent by BAP legal counsel Boni Alentajan late yesterday afternoon, obviously in response to a previous press statement made by PBFI president Moying Martelino who blasted BAP secgen Graham Lim , referring to him as an alien.

In effect, Atty. Boni was reminding Moying of his sins.

"In 1970 when he was still BAP sec-gen, Moying sent a [Philippine] Youth team to the International Youth Basketball tournament composed of overaged players with falsified birth certificates. Upon discovery of the scam, the [Philippines] was declared to have forfeited all the games played. This international shame must have compelled Moying to leave the BAP and work in Qatar where he vied for the post of ABC sec-gen, representing Qatar and not the Philippines. Eventually, when FIBA-Asia succeeded ABC, Moying was replaced as sec-gen. Is Moying more Filipino than Graham Lim?" asks Alentajan.

Federer is hot Open favorite

MASON, Ohio—Roger Federer believes it wouldn't take much to prevent him from winning his second straight US Open title.

A virus. An injury. A windy day that makes everything go awry.

"A little thing needs to go wrong and you lose," he said.

For everyone else, maybe. It's going to take a whole lot more to keep the Swiss star from extending one of the most dominant runs in ATP history.

Federer won his 22nd consecutive tournament final on Sunday, dispatching Andy Roddick and any thought that he was vulnerable after a long summer layoff. His two-set victory for the Cincinnati Masters title made him the prohibitive favorite for the tournament at Flushing Meadows, which begins next Monday.

"Federer is in a class of his own," said Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, who lost the US Open final to Federer last year.

And few players have marks like Federer, who turned 24 this month and has only recently come into his prime. He's been No. 1 for 82 consecutive weeks, one of the longest stays in ATP rankings history.

That's only the beginning.

Federer's record is 138-9 over the last two years, including 54-3 this season. He has won his last 28 matches on hard courts. He and Rafael Nadal are tied with nine ATP titles this year. The last three Wimbledon titles belong to Federer.

He's playing so well that opponents have no margin for error—a factor that weighs on their nerves and their shots.

"You have to play pretty close to perfect," said James Blake, who lost a first-round match to Federer in Cincinnati.

The rest of the field had a little hope when Federer decided to take off after beating Roddick in July for his latest Wimbledon title. Federer knows he's on the cusp of history, as long as he doesn't burn out or break down.

He went home to Oberwil, Switzerland, for a public celebration of his fifth Grand Slam title, then went on holiday. He celebrated his birthday and practiced, but mostly rested his sore feet. He knew it was a huge risk—he'd be going into the US Open with only the tournament in Cincinnati to get ready.

By the time he got to the final, it looked like Wimbledon all over again.

"Everything comes very automatic now," he said. "I don't need to think anymore where I'm going to hit the balls. They just go automatically. That's very important in my game, because I need to play with the flow."

That's the best way to describe his game. There's nothing dominant—no overpowering serve like Roddick, no incredible quickness like Nadal—but no weakness, either. Plus, the biggest points in a match bring out his best.

Once he gets ahead, it's usually over. *AP*

IT'S going to take an extraordinary performance from somebody to stop Roger's habit of celebrating at the end of tennis tournaments. AP

Taguig nips Valencia *Hawks*

From page A26

VALENCIA CITY—Forward Taguig survived a blistering fourth-quarter rally by the Valencia Golden Harvest to eke out a 69-66 victory Monday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the jampacked city gym here.

The Taguig cagers of Mayor Freddie Tinga went without a field goal in the final 6:35 and nearly squandered a 16-point lead in the game which was halted by a power shutout caused by thunderstorm.

After Jimboy Robillo's free throws gave Taguig a 67-49 lead, Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia boys dropped a 15-0 bomb to threaten at 67-64, with 17 ticks left.

Donald Dulay and Robillos split their charities to finalize the count.

The scores:

TAGUIG 69—Sinco 14, Robillos 11, Marucot 11, Villar 10, Zablan 8, Gonzales 5, Dulay 4, De Castro 2, Dela Rosa 2, Magsambol 2, Lapinid 0, Aclon 0, Reguera 0.

VALENCIA 66—Berami 20, Nailon 12, Cruz 12, Gragasin 5, Cabili 4, Navales 3, Clavel 2, Taligatos 1, Madera 0, Adams 0.

Quarters: 21-10, 39-26, 55-45, 69-66

The varsity scores:

First Game

UMAK 78—Mangaran 31, Nograda 22, Tapi 10, Tamaray 5, Del Rosario 4, Domangcas 2, Commerciase 2, Santos 2, Barrios 0, Lunag 0, Silva 0, Bacus 0.

PLP 74—Somera 22, Tayer 12, Biala 10, David 9, Navo 7, Casulla 4, Pascual 4, Cordero 4, Dela Cruz 2,.

Quarters: 17-17, 36-29, 57-49, 78-74.

Second Game

CEU 57—Franco 11, Carillo 11, Cordero 6, Macasaet 6, Cristobal 6, F. Romulo 4, Magno 4, Lalota 3, J. Romulo 2, Gatdula 2, Camacho 2, Dayag 0.

STI 54—Botin 19, Ebuengga 12, Wong 8, Belano 6, Legaspi 3, Mijares 3, Lunar 2, Stapley 1, Castro 0,.

Quarters: 18-9, 27-23, 46-41, 57-54.

CHAMPS: Members of the Harbour Centre-San Juan quintet, led by team owner Mikee Romero (No. 4, standing) and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (24), also the team manager, celebrate their victory in the recent MBL-San Juan Invitational Cup tournament at the San Juan Gym. The squad downed MediaTrixx, 80-71, in the title match. The star-studded HC-SJ crew includes UE Warriors coach and former PBA and La Salle standout Dindon Pumaren (10).

Alvendia spearheads A3 haul in Petron race

TWICE SECOND: Philip Alvendia.

The A3 Motorsports-Malayan Automaster National Touring Team, skippered by former Karter of the Year Philip Alvendia, posted another splendid performance by hauling five trophies recently in the fourth leg of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Alvendia led the impressive haul following two exciting runner-up finishes in the Petron National Touring Car Championship.

Two A3 Motorsports-Malayan Automaster drivers Nico Montinola and Felix Perez made it a 1-2 finish in the Run-What-You-Brung race posting fast times of 1:55.412 and 1:58.335, respectively, while Jason Ang topped the Class C division with 2:19.213.

Alvendia gave defending champion Jody Coseteng a big scare as he stuck close throughout and almost caught up on the reigning champ as he moved just a car behind with two laps to go.

But transmission problems made him finish 0.403 seconds behind Coseteng.

The same problem bogged him in the afternoon race. In the final lap, he lost steam and settled for the runner-up finish.

"We almost had it. If not for the transmission problems, we could have won," said Alvendia, backed by Malayan Insurance, Bridgestone, ERS, Honda Kalookan, Rota Wheels, and PUMA.

Uy tops drag race, sets new BRC track mark

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Jose Uy of Blanche Racing spoiled Walter Pazon's bid for a back-to-back crown as he stamped a new record time on the way to capturing the premiere Quick 8 title yesterday in the 2nd BRC Drag Racing Festival at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit.

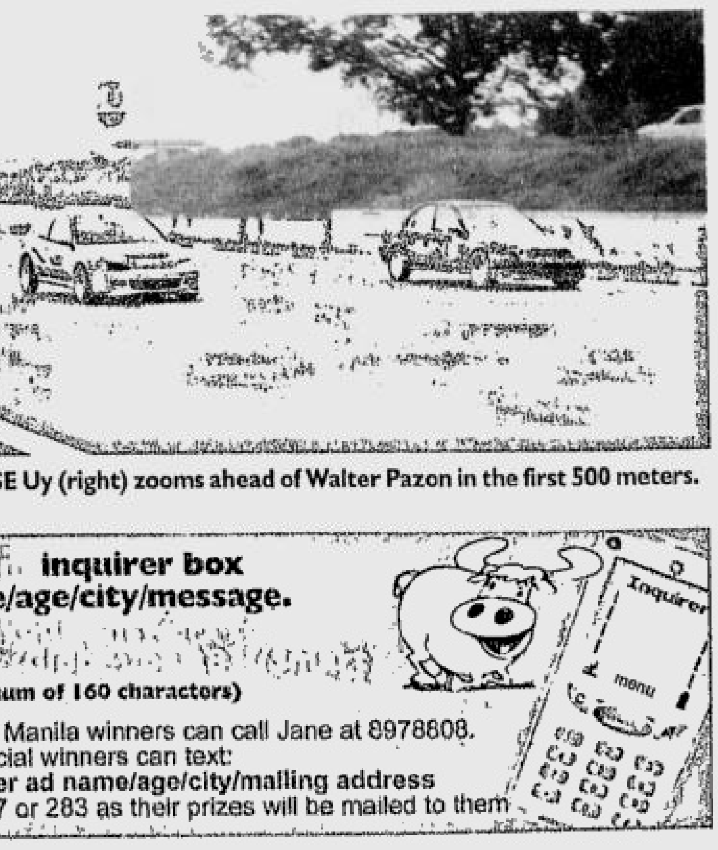
The 21-year-old Uy steered his black Honda Civic to a fast dial slip time of 12.134 seconds in the 1.3-km track to claim the title as the new king of the BRC Drag Strip, shattering the previous record of 12.837 seconds posted by Pazon, his teammate, in the inaugural drag race last month.

Pazon, who chipped in a better personal time of 12.763, appeared headed for a second straight triumph after beating Danny Yema in the Round of 8 and turned back Carlo Aguilar in the semifinal round to arrange a titular showdown with Uy.

The two came even in the first 300 meters but Uy spoiled Pazon's hopes as he pulled away from there and claimed checkered flag with a time of 12.374 seconds.

He later pulled a repeat over Pazon who made into the semifinals of the PRO class via the loser's bracket. But Uy lost the chance for a double as he committed a red light in the finals against another Blanche Racing driver Sheldon Chua, who clocked 13.960 seconds.

Meanwhile, the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines and the Batangas Racing Circuit has decided to stage a four-leg series from September to December.



JOSE Uy (right) zooms ahead of Walter Pazon in the first 500 meters.

INQBOX Question of the Week

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1999 TOUR DE FRANCE

Paper accuses Lance of doping

PARIS—French sports daily L'Equipe reported Tuesday that Lance Armstrong used the performance-enhancing drug EPO to win his first Tour de France title in 1999, a claim the seven-time champion immediately denied.

L'Equipe devoted four pages to its allegations, with the front-page headline "The Armstrong Lie." The paper said that signs of EPO use were found in Armstrong's urine six times during the 1999 Tour.

"Unfortunately, the witch hunt continues and tomorrow's article is nothing short of tabloid journalism," Armstrong wrote on his website. "I will simply restate what I have said many times: I have never taken performance-enhancing drugs."

The governing body of world cycling did not begin using a urine test for EPO until 2001. For years, it had been impossible to detect the drug, called erythropoietin, which builds endurance by boosting the production of oxygen-rich red blood cells.

The tests on 1999 urine samples were carried out in 2004 to help scientists improve their detection methods, the paper said.

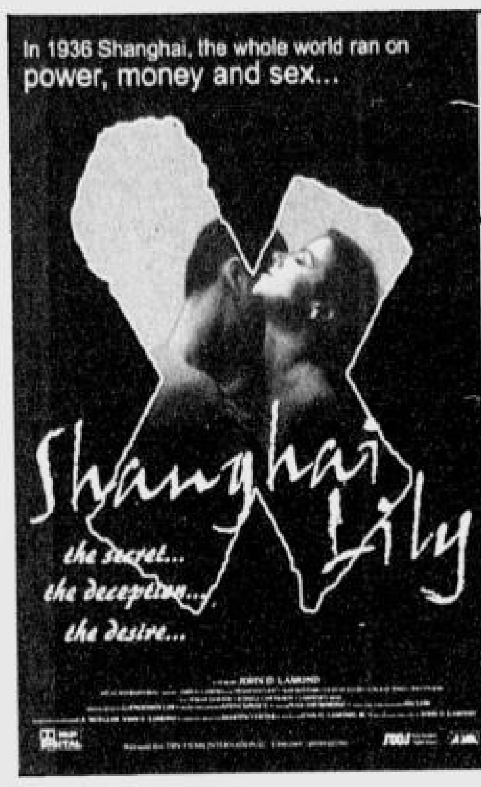
L'Equipe said it matched up anonymous urine samples from that Tour with medical statements signed by doctors, claiming that there were "characteristic, undeniable and consequent" signs of EPO in Armstrong's urine tests.

The newspaper said the tests were carried out by the national antidoping laboratory in Chatenay-Malabry.

L'Equipe, whose parent company is closely linked to the Tour, has frequently raised questions about how Armstrong could have made his spectacular comeback from testicular cancer without using performance enhancers. *AP*

Stagfighter of the Year search is on

THE QUEST for Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Stagfighter of the Year starts on Sept. 5, when the Makati Coliseum–based group holds its first 5-stag event. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co said that nine PCAP derbies, scheduled every Monday, will be the basis in choosing the "Stagfighter" winner. PCAP's 31 regular members are Gerry Ramos, Ruel Ricafort, Emil Chua, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jimafer Group, William Go, Efren Canlas, Tony Marfori, Butch Macasaet, Ashley Arayata, E. Abella, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Rey Briones, Jun Marasigan, Boyet Joson, Ferdie Eusebio, Arman Santos, Benjie Lim, Reps. Gerry Boy Espina, Butch Pichay, Nonoy Libanan and Jing Paras, Rudy Albano, Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo, Manny Pacquiao, Jose Orillaza, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, William Co, Blandy Tolentino, John Capinpin, Bobby Doromal and Boy Marso. Meanwhile, the annual RL Bates 7-Stag Derby sizzles on Monday and Wednesday (Aug. 29 and 31) also at Makati Coliseum. For more details, please call 896-3545, 895-6475 and 895-6453.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3 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS
4 (GOLD DTS) SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
6 (GOLD SDDS) LONGEST YARD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
10 BEWITCHED

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 (DOLBY) VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) THE LONGEST YARD
4 (DOLBY) SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DTS) BEWITCHED
3 (DOLBY) ARAHAN
4 THE EYE INFINITY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) THE EYE INFINITY
3 (DTS) ARAHAN
4 BEWITCHED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 IF ONLY
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 (DOLBY) THE EYE INFINITY
4 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2
3 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor.
Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SKELETON KEY
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 MUST LOVE DOG
4 LONGEST YARD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street,
Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
2 (DOLBY) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
4 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
2 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
3 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
4 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
5 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 STEALTH
2
3 INTERPOOL
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 INTERPOOL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LONGEST YARD
5 EVIL EYE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LONGEST YARD
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 EVIL EYE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE EYE INFINITY
2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 INTERPOOL
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
6 EVIL EYE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) ARAHAN
2 BEWITCHED
3 (DTS ES) WEDDING CRASHERS
4

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GHOST HOUSE
2 PUKYUTAN
3 LAMAT
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ARAHAN
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 (DTS) BEWITCHED
4 INTERPOOL
5 D' ANOTHERS

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 SIX
2 ARAHAN
3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED
4 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 IF ONLY D/W SAHARA
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ARAHAN
2 BEWITCHED
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHOCOLATE FACTORY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) SHUT UP & KISS ME
2

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 INTERPOOL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

DISNEY releases $60M CGI Animated Film "VALIANT"

DISNEY's partner Vanguard Animation is the successful CGI studio of John H. Williams, whose previous big claim to fame was producing the two all -time box office hits "*Shrek*" and "*Shrek 2*" for Dreamworks.

Disney is co- producing with VANGUARD ANIMATION on the CGI film '*Valiant*'. This could easily be seen as a way of securing a replacement source of CGI animated films when their Pixar pipeline goes to another studio after 2005. The $60M Valiant is Vanguard's first film with Disney and the partners have several other CGI films in development.

Ewan Mcgregor as the voice of Valiant.

After starring in two of summer's most expensive blockbusters "*Star Wars Episode 3: Revenge of the Sith*" and "*The Island*", Ewan McGregor makes his third appearance at the box office voicing the title character in "*Valiant*". The tale of a pigeon who wants to be a brave soldier.

Valiant stands as Disney's first CGI pic of summer and with so few films connecting with families right now, it stands to find the level of audience demand. Disney's brand name will help to sell this title to parents looking to amuse their younger children during the final weeks of summer vacation.

A very common trend in the never-ending animation war between Disney and Dreamworks is a recurrence of themes between their movies: *Finding Nemo* vs *Sharkslayer; Monsters Inc.* vs *Shrek, A Bug's Life* vs *Antz,* etc. So, it's not surprising to find similarities between Disney's '*Valiant*', and another movie about birds Dreamworks' '*Chicken Run*' . Admittedly, there are significant twists and differences between the two concepts (*as there usually are in this trend*), with this movie seeming to have a lot more action (*since pigeons can actually fly*), and the fact that these birds are actually participating in a war, whereas Chicken Run was mostly about not wanting to be turned into a pie.

[Hollywood Reporter]

ADVT.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide..

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LONGEST YARD 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40
VALIANT 12:45 / 3:20 / 5:55 / 8:30
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LONGEST YARD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9.00
SKELETON KEY 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
MUST LOVE DOGS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
BEWITCHED 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ THE GREAT RAID 11:30 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00
❷ THE LONGEST YARD 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❸ THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
❹ VALIANT 12:00 / 2:35 / 5:10 / 7:45
❺ D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES
Aug 27 UST vs Adu Jrs 9.30am ADMU vs UE Jrs 11.30am
Sunday UST vs Adu Srs 2pm ADMU vs UE Srs 4pm
SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V
September 2, Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
PROMOS — *Araneta Center Hoopla ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at The Big Dome, buy a Smart Sim and shop at Araneta Center to win trips to Singapore and Thailand, Nokia cellphones and Apple iPods!*
PERFORMANCES — *Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Drive from 9 to 11pm featuring Sandra Lim & JFK on August 26 and Affinity with Cooky Chua on August 27*
NEW STORES — *Florsheim (Ground Floor), Duck Duck (Ground Floor) and Naturalizer (Level 2) now open at Gateway Mall*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
2 VALIANT
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
6 MUST LOVE DOGS
7 EVIL EYE
8 BEWITCHED
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 WEDDING CRASHERS

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 EVIL EYE
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
6 VALIANT
7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 EVIL EYE
4 THE LONGEST YARD
5 BEWITCHED
6 VALIANT
7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
8 D' ANOTHERS

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 EVIL DEAD

PIONEER
687-5378

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 EVIL EYE
4 VALIANT

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1 BEWITCHED
2 ARAHAN
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 MUST LOVE DOGS

LIPA
(043) 757-3684
(043) 312-5870

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 MGA PUSANG GALA

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2126
(046) 416-4332

1 BEWITCHED
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 SHANGHAI LILY

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 BEWITCHED
2 ARAHAN
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 MGA PUSANG GALA

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 EVIL EYE
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 MGA PUSANG GALA
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
5 BEWITCHED
6 WEDDING CRASHERS

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0459

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 IF ONLY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 STEALTH
5 THE MACHINIST
6 THE EYE INFINITY

ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 CRASH
4 STEALTH

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GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN

AYALA CENTER
CEBU

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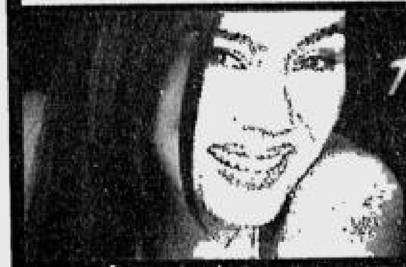

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NOW OPEN! PEOPLE'S PALACE GB 3 Ground Level

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
The Emperor's New Clothes
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August 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 D' ANOTHERS

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 VALIANT
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 THX SKELETON KEY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 BEWITCHED
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
7 THE LONGEST YARD

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 CINEMANILA SNEAK PREVIEW For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81
2 THE LONGEST YARD 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
2 THX THE LONGEST YARD 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS
3 MUST LOVE DOGS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 VALIANT 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THX THE LONGEST YARD
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 VALIANT

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 SKELETON KEY
2 BEWITCHED
3 IF ONLY
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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2022 Series of 2005

CINEMANILA 2005 • ADVANCE SCREENING
August 24-31, 2005 • Greenbelt Cinema, Ayala Center

Manderlay *Lars Von Trier (Denmark/USA, 2005)*
The second installment in a trilogy USA - Land of Opportunities, that began with Dogville. The story of slavery in the American South. *Golden Palm-Nominated* - Cannes 2005

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol Lu Chuan (China, 2004)
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

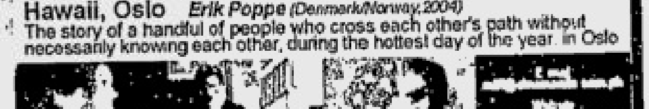
Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies (Finland, 2005)*
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives. *FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award* - Göteborg Filmfest 2005 *Special Jury Prize* - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer (USA/Norway, 2005)*
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei. *Directors' Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge (Sweden, 2003)*
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal. *Blue Angel, Silver Berlin Award* - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan (Hong Kong, 1998)*
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman. A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

Hawaii, Oslo *Erik Poppe (Denmark/Norway, 2004)*
The story of a handful of people who cross each other's path without necessarily knowing each other, during the hottest day of the year in Oslo



Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

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② Valiant
③ The Great Raid
④ The Sisterhood of Traveling Pants
⑤ The Truth about Love

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No A2-354 Series of 2005

'People's Race' side event in Cabanatuan tilt

A RACE open to all cycling enthusiasts in Central Luzon will be one of the top side attractions of the second leg of the 2005 Cycling Search Invitational Series on Saturday in the Nueva Ecija provincial capital of Cabanatuan City.

"We want cycling enthusiasts to get the feel of circuit racing," said CSI race director Ding Cruz. "They can bring whatever bike they like and they will run two to three laps on the actual course of our CSI criterium races."

Cruz said he got the idea of a "People's Race" from a similar event he witnessed in 2004 when he was the international commissar of the Tour of Hokkaido.

"We saw cyclists of all ages take part in a fun race in the Hakedate stage of the race," he said. "It proved to be quite successful."

Since most of those taking part in the "People's Race" are expected to be newcomers to competitive cycling, the CSI director said they would also add tighter security precautions in the races.

Cruz said the side event was one of CSI's vehicles for more people to take part in the sport even as the criterium races also seek to discover new cycling talent in the event sponsored by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Postal Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and TCL project.

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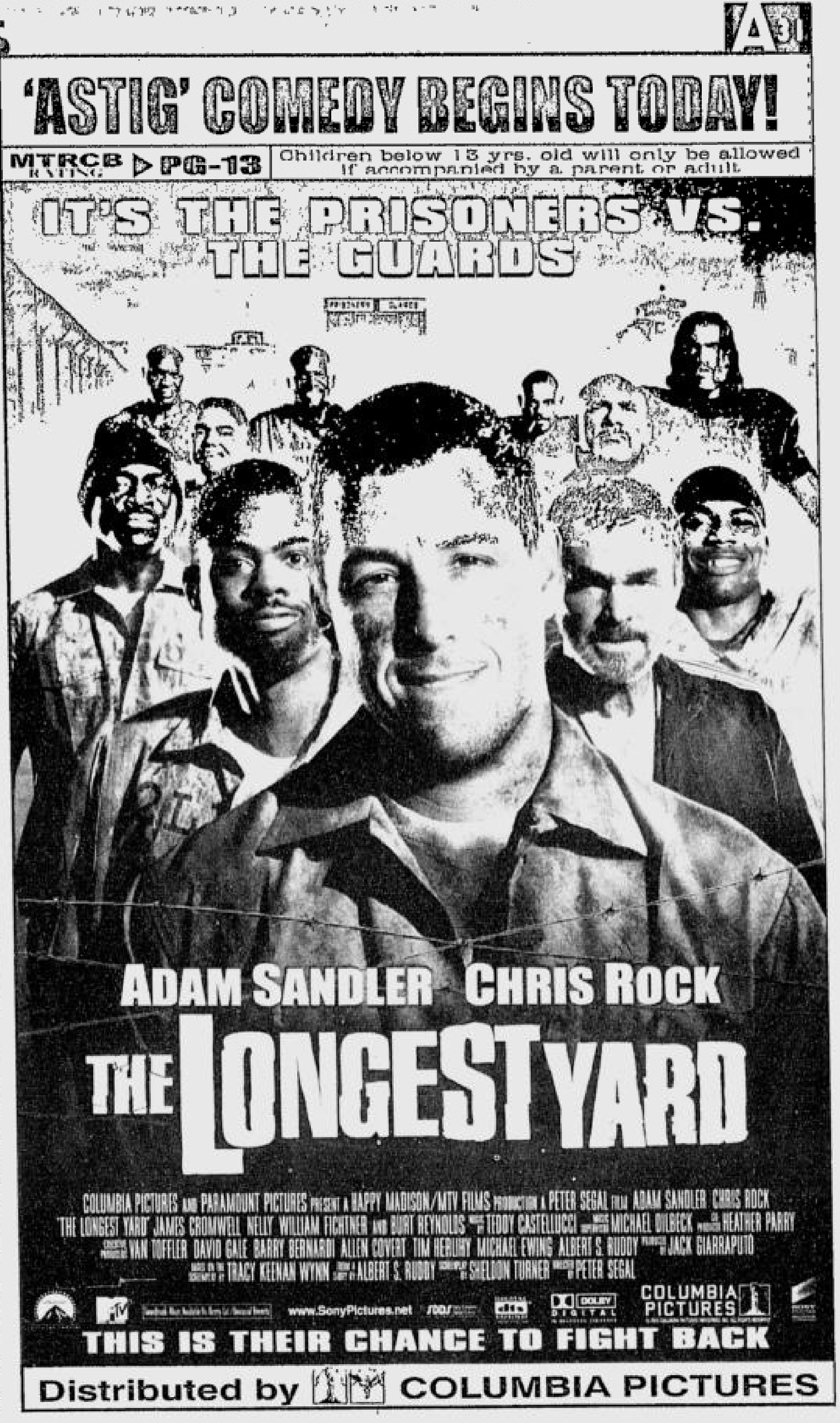
benjamin BRATT
james FRANCO
joseph FIENNES
connie NIELSEN
THE GREAT RAID
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
3RD WEEK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VAN TOFFLER DAVID GALE BARRY BERNARDI ALLEN COVERT TIM HERLIHY MICHAEL EWING ALBERT S. RUDDY JACK GIARRAPUTO
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FEARING IS BELIEVING
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Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt
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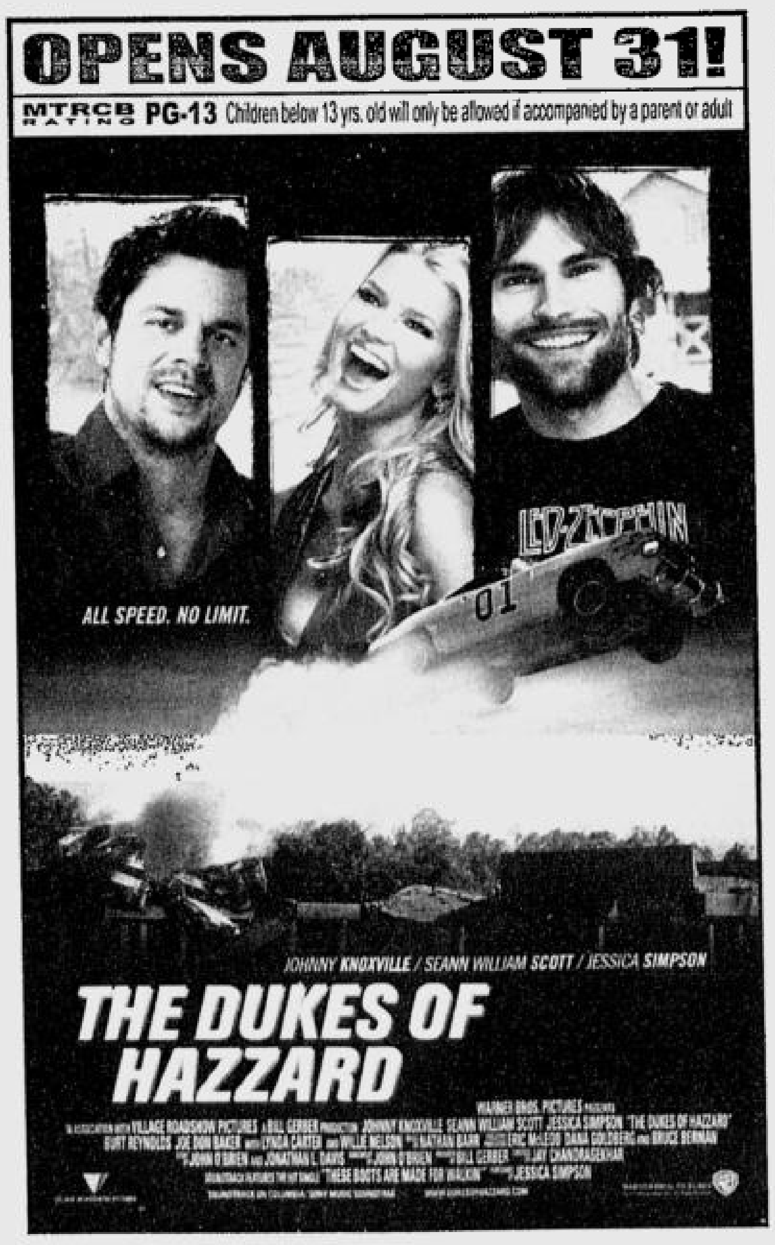
SUPER FUN, SUPER EXCITEMENT, SUPER HEROES!
OPENS AUGUST 31
MTRCB RATING ▶ G
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
WALT DISNEY PICTURES
SKY HIGH
LAYLA
SHE'S FIRMLY PLANTED BUT DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE'S GROWING
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


OPENS AUGUST 31!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ALL SPEED. NO LIMIT.
01
JOHNNY KNOXVILLE / SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT / JESSICA SIMPSON
THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

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A sweet love story that's IRRESISTIBLE
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Diane Lane
John Cusack
Must Love Dogs
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PERSONS WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SEE THIS FILM ALONE
URMILA MATONDKAR IS
EVIL EYES (NAINA)
A FILM BY SHRIPAL MORAKHIA
The Eyes that saw the Dead... and Death

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Cool Runnings 2. Reigns Supreme/ Teetotal 3. Native Land
Race 2—1. Close Account 2. Witch Craft 3. Sparkling Cool 4. Samahan
Race 3—1. Pay to See 2. Parrot Moe 3. Unrivaled 4. Magic Dancer 5. Jokes Only
Race 4—1. Last Snip 2. Spectacular Play/ Colombia Breeze 3. Sweet Connections 4. Wear the Fox Hat
Race 5—1. Blue Bolero 2. Precious Moment 3. Can and Will 4. Peek A Boo 5. The Virginian
Race 6—1. Truly Impressive 2. Extreme Power 3. All All All 4. Im D Man
Race 7—1. Gold Collar 2. Collective Dreams 3. Fastteller 4. Don Ramon 5. Something Silver
Race 8—1. Gigi's Gold/Angel Eyes 2. Prickly Heat 3. Prophet 4. Secret Angel 5. Precious Dancer 6. Playing Cool

Tumbok Cup stakes race backs Hands On Manila

HANDS On Manila (HOM) will be the beneficiary of the 1st Tumbok Cup, a charitable stakes race sponsored by Philippine Racing Commission and organized by Tumbok, one of the dailies printed and circulated by INQUIRER Publications Inc.

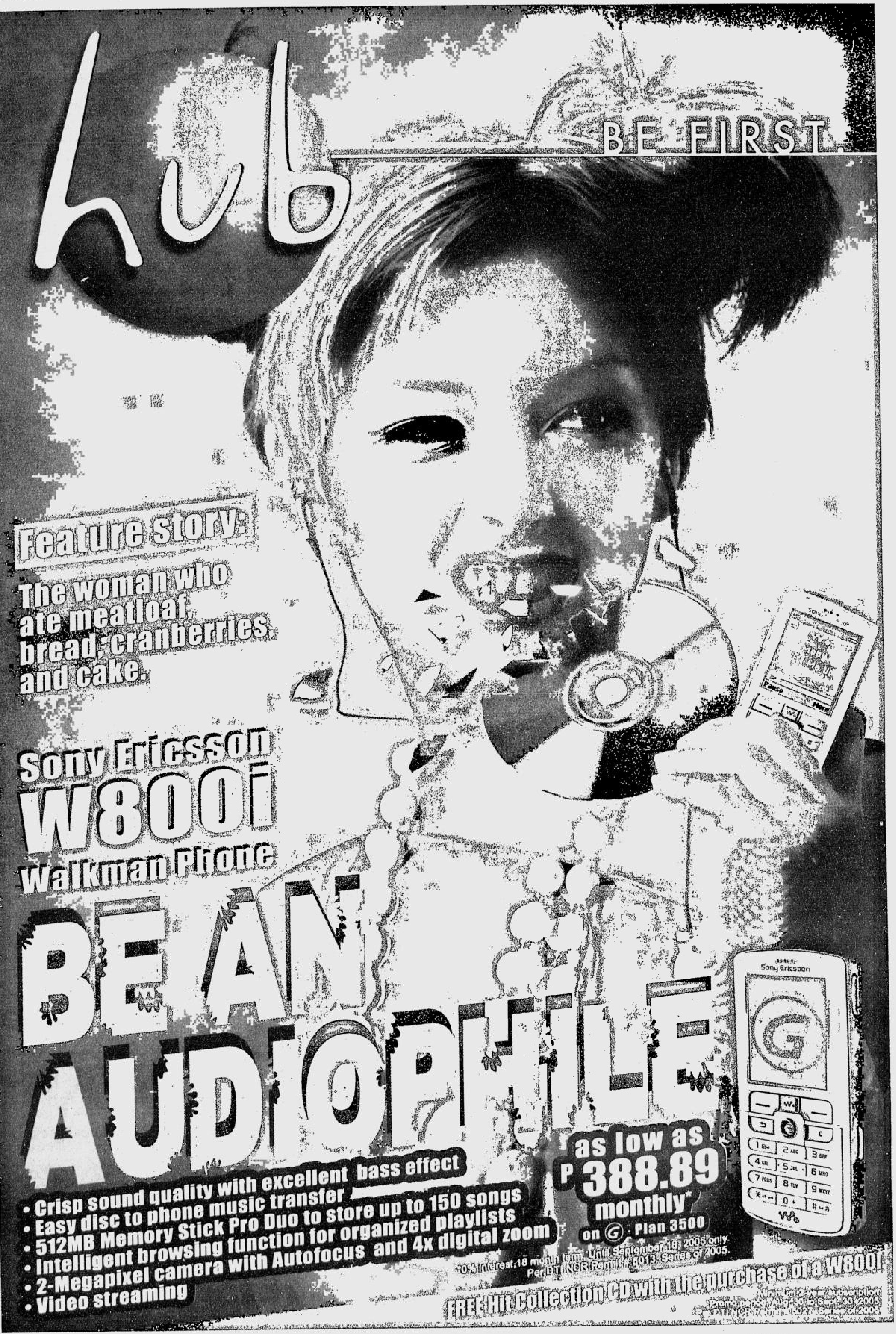
The Philracom and IPI cemented the partnership recently.

Philracom earmarked P400,000 for the stakes race set Oct. 9 at Santa Ana Park, with the race's earnings going to HOM, a volunter group helping street children in the country.

"Philracom will never say no to a charitable event like this one," said Philracom chair Jaime Dilag after signing a Memorandum of Agreement with Tumbok editor Roni Briones.

To help the jockeys, the Tumbok Cup will be a race among apprentice jockeys.

Also present to witness the MOA signing were IPI senior marketing manager Geraldine Tejada, HOM executive director Lisa M. Crisostomo and Philracom commissioners Eduardo B. Jose, Rogelio A. Tandiama, Reynaldo G. Fernando and Marlon Cunanan.



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ROUNDUP

ERIK ARAZAS

Family affair

IN their first formal public outing, TV host Kris Aquino, son Joshua (by estranged partner Phillip Salvador), and cager-boyfriend James Yap attended the Mass commemorating the 22nd death anniversary of Kris' dad, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. It was held Sunday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque. Kris' mom, former President Corazon Aquino, and brother, Rep. Noynoy, were present, prompting the loquacious Kris to quip later that afternoon on "The Buzz": "They're close *naaah*!" Referring to Tita Cory and James, of course.

'Legacy' wins in Moonrise

"LEGACY: Philippine World Heritage Sites" was the most awarded video documentary at the Moonrise Film Festival, held at the Gateway cinemas from Aug. 18 to 21.

Produced and directed by Butch Nolasco, "Legacy" was the first runner-up to "Moving Mountains," and also won for Best Cinematography and Best Video on Terrestrial Bio-Diversity trophies.

Organized by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education and Apocalypse Point Productions, the festival showcased 16 entries.

Top 10 US movies this week

LOS ANGELES—The weekend grosses, according to Exhibitor Relations, official box-office tracker:

1) "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," $20.6M; 2) "Red Eye," $16.5M; 3) "Four Brothers," $13M; 4) "Wedding Crashers," $8.3M; 5) "The Skeleton Key," $7.4M; 6) "March of the Penguins," $6.7M; 7) "Valiant," $6.1M million; 8) "Dukes of Hazzard," $5.7M; 9) "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," $4.5M; 10) "Sky High," $4M.

Anvil race begins

THE 41ST ANVIL Awards, dubbed "Oscar of Philippine Public Relations," is now accepting nominees for "Gawad Panday," the "highest honor given to an individual who has significantly advanced PR in the Philippines."

Contenders have until Oct. 31 to submit their entries to the Anvil Awards Committee, No. 20-B, San Mateo Street, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City. The rules can be downloaded from www.prsp.org.ph, or call 6380010.

KBP open to talks with AdBoard

LAST June 6, the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) bolted AdBoard, the umbrella organization that covers advertising content in the media industry. (Pana, or the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, is a member of AdBoard.)

"KBP felt they were not given enough support by the AdBoard," Terra J. Daffon, ABC 5 SVP for Corporate Affairs, told INQUIRER Entertainment.

In separate phone interviews, KBP president Ruperto "Jun" Nicdao and Pana president Maria Belen Fernando confirmed that various issues led to KBP's resignation from the AdBoard.

"There were lots of questions raised," Fernando said. "Not all advertisers are in agreement on the issue of the 18-minute limit on TV commercials."

It was the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back," according to Nicdao.

He said the KBP was planning to form its own self-regulatory board, but that it wasn't completely closing its door on AdBoard. "We are still working to resolve the issue within the industry."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Cheadle visits 'Hotel Rwanda'

LOS ANGELES—Actor Don Cheadle has finally visited "Hotel Rwanda."

The 40-year-old actor toured the Hotel des Milles Collines in Rwanda's capital Kigali last month, speaking with several of the more than 1,000 people who were sheltered there by manager Paul Rusesabagina (the character he portrayed in the film) during the country's 1994 genocide.

Last year's film, for which the actor won an Oscar nomination, was shot primarily in South Africa.

AP

What's with these kids?

Maryo J says young actors today test his patience

By Nini Valera

DELOS Reyes and Alma Moreno, an adult member of the "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit" cast

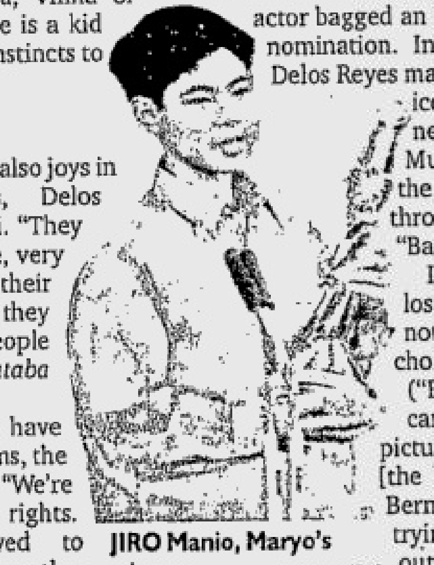
THE FILM director who gave "tweener" movies of the 1980s a new sensibility admits that he's now having a hard time communicating with young actors.

"They're into video games; I am not," said award-laden director Maryo J. delos Reyes, now at the helm of the ABS-CBN drama series "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," which has several children in the main cast. "They're into iPod; I'm still using a cassette. I find their conversation shallow. They no longer read, and they're in a hurry to make it."

But he couldn't rush them as actors, Delos Reyes told INQUIRER Entertainment. "[Sometimes] it tests my patience."

He cited an instance: "Charlene San Pedro (one of the waifs in the series) ... before we shoot a crying scene. I tell her to imagine losing someone she loves very much. She starts crying, we do the take. But a dog barks and she forgets her lines.

I have to remind myself that she is not Nora, Vilma or Maricel, that she is a kid using only her instincts to act."



JIRO Manio, Maryo's winner

RUDY ESPERAS

Bright side

But there are also joys in directing kids, Delos Reyes conceded. "They are very sincere, very honest about their feelings. When they perform and people notice, *nakakataba ng puso*."

So far, there have been no tantrums, the director said. "We're aware of their rights. They're allowed to leave the set when they have to."

His patience has paid off. The series, which would have ended a month ago, was extended for another season (13 weeks), and child actor Jiro Manio has joined the cast.

Delos Reyes and Jiro worked together in "Magnifico" (2003), which won for both of them several awards in local and foreign film festivals.

"But that's it," said Delos Reyes. "[The series] will end after the extension."

Before it winds up, however, Delos Reyes would like to use the show to tackle such issues as child exploitation, child prostitution, violence against children, teenage pregnancy, maybe even adoption. "These are public affairs issues," he said, "but I think we can handle them as well."

Breakthrough

Children have always been part of Delos Reyes' art. His first movie was the 1978 high school drama "High School Circa '68," in which Roderick Paulate's character came out of the closet, and the actor bagged an Urian Award nomination. In the 1980s, Delos Reyes made a teenage icon out of newcomer Aga Muhlach via the breakthrough movie "Bagets."

Ironically, Delos Reyes was not the first choice to direct ("Bagets"). "I came into the picture only after [the late] Ishmael Bernal gave up trying to figure out what the movie meant."

Since the sequel, "Bagets 2" likewise broke box office records, Delos Reyes ruled the '80s, championing the generation that preceded the turn of the century's Gen-X.

But talk of a "Bagets" reunion on the big screen does not excite Delos Reyes. "I feel that there are a lot of younger directors who could do a better job of that," he said. "But they have to find another Aga Mulach. There are a lot of young actors and actresses now. But I bet you, in the next five years, you won't remember most of them."

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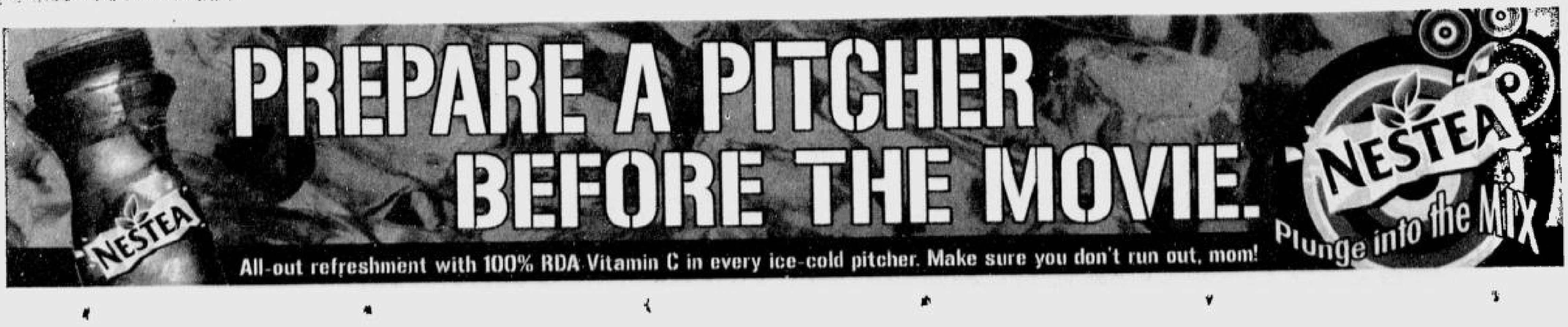

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08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/6:45
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 BEWITCHED
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/5:46/07:38
09:21FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2 SKELETON KEY
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/5:46/07:38
09:21FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:07LFS/09:30LFS/11:25END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
7 VALIANT
8 EVIL EYES
9 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 LONGEST YARD
11 THE GREAT RAID
12 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
EVIL EYES
BEWITCHED
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 THE GREAT RAID
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 D' ANOTHERS
LONGEST YARD
VALIANT
9 SKELETON KEY
10 STEALTH
11 THE YE INFINITY
12 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

SM NORTH EDSA
LONGEST YARD
SKELETON KEY
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 D' ANOTHERS
MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
8 VALIANT

SM CITY MANILA
TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKELETON KEY
VALIANT
6 LONGEST YARD
ENTERPOOL
THE EYE INFINITY
THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 BEWITCHED
12 EVIL EYES

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKELETON KEY
3 VALIANT
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 EVIL EYES
7 MUST LOVE DOGS
8 BEWITCHED
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LONGEST YARD
2 VALIANT
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
4 SKELETON KEY
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 BEWITCHED
TRUH ABOUT LOVE
THE GREAT RAID
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 EVIL EYES

SM SAN LAZARO
LONGEST YARD
SKELETON KEY
VALIANT
D' ANOTHERS
MUST LOVE DOGS
TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
LONGEST YARD
2 EVIL EYES
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

SM CITY BICUTAN
LONGEST YARD
2 ICE PRINCESS
EVIL EYES
4 THE GREAT RAID

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
6 PUSANG GALA

SM CITY BACOOR
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 EVIL EYES
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE EYE INFINITY
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 CRASH
4 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 ARAHAN
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 BEWITCHED
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 THE MACHINIST
2 IF ONLY
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 IF ONLY
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY ILOILO
1 CRASH
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 THE GREAT RAID
WEDDING CRASHERS
RESERVED
8 STEALTH

SM CITY DAVAO
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE GREAT RAID
D' ANOTHERS
4 ARAHAN
5 PUSANG GALA
BEWITCHED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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YESTERDAY

The Tiya Dely show

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan
Additional photos courtesy of Dely Magpayo

AT the dzRH office in Star City, co-workers fondly call her "Tiyang."

After all, Fidela "Dely" Mendoza Magpayo, 85, is the country's favorite aunt—dispensing sound, if at times stern, advice to love-struck radio listeners for over six decades now.

Her voice (still as dulcet as ever) was her passport to fame. But older sister Lulu Magpayo was the first radio star in the family.

Pre-war debut

"She was the contemporary of Lina Flor, Rafael Ortigas, Koko Trinidad, and Bimbo Danao," Tiya Dely recounts. "I used to tag along and was soon asked to sing (in a show with Atang de la Rama and Gerry Brandy). First, on IB, which was owned by the same family behind I. Beck department store on Escolta. Then I joined RF, Radio Filipinas, sister company of Radio Manila."

Dely made her radio debut right before the Pacific War. Later on, at 19, she was recruited by comic Andoy Balunbalunan, partner of Dely Atayatayan, to join the troupe on kzRF.

Not even the Japanese Occupation could keep Ms Magpayo away from the radio and stage.

"When the war broke, all radio stations were padlocked," she recalls. "Then kzRH, which was seized by the Japanese, was opened with the new call letters PI-AM."

She sang on PIAM and in various provincial shows. "I sang only Tagalog songs [in the provinces] because most of the people were members of the guerrilla movement."

For those road shows, the singers were paid in goods. "If the show was held in Canlubang (Laguna), we were paid with sugar."

When the war ended, Dely wasted no time in resuming her career: "I joined dzRH, which was under the Luz Mat Castro group. Soap operas were the top raters. I was in 'Gulong ng Palad,' 'Aklat ng Pag-Ibig,' 'Prinsipe Amante,' and 'Camay Theater of the Air.'"

One day, station producer Ray Oliver asked her to host "A Date With Dely," a Saturday evening game show.

"A year later, on Oct. 6, 1953, we started 'Mga Liham Kay Tiya Dely.'"

Meanwhile, she also waxed records, headlined stage shows, and top-billed movies. She recorded for Villar, Mico, Mercury, and Bataan Records, which was owned by the Mystery Singer, Cecil Lloyd.

Under the Bataan label, she recorded her most memorable hits—"Una Kong Pag-Ibig" and "Pamaypay ng Maynila."

After Liberation, she also moonlighted as a leading lady at the Manila Grand Opera House, sparring with the likes of Angel Esmeralda, Pugo and Togo. "I was employed at the Department of Foreign Affairs (she is a graduate of Foreign Service) at the time, as confidential secretary to the DFA chief, Elpidio Quirino. I made P1,440 a year, or about P120 a month—a big sum in those days!"

True calling

But Dely found her true calling as on-air counselor.

So popular was her "Tiya Dely" radio drama serial, it was made into a major movie by Larry Santiago Productions in 1958. She also acted in the movies and was reunited with Pugo in "Sebya Mahal Kita."

"I learned a lot from Pugo," she says, "espe-

THE FIRST Lady of Philippine Radio receives an award from President Arroyo and NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo.

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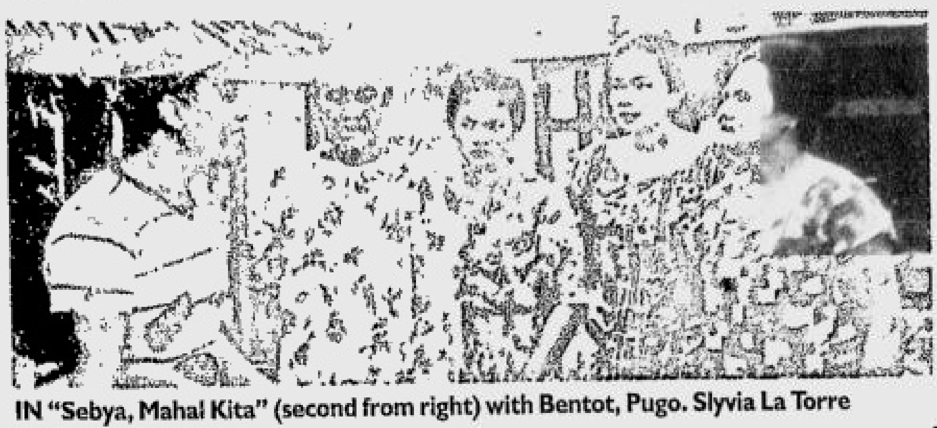


IN "Sebya, Mahal Kita" (second from right) with Bentot, Pugo. Slyvia La Torre and Rosa Aguirre

THE dzRH cub reporter

cially comic timing."

Back on radio, she successfully diversified via other formats, like the talent contest ("Hamon ng Kampeon") and the *kundiman* show ("Serenatang Kumbidahan"), but her advice show proved to be the most enduring and endearing.

In 1957, she moved to ABS-CBN's dzXL, owned by the Lopezes, where she stayed until martial law was declared in 1972. "I then transferred to Veritas, dzBB and dwWW," she says.

The road home

When ABS-CBN reopened with dzMM post-Edsa, she rejoined the Lopezes but, in 1990, she was lured back to her old home, dzRH, now the Elizaldes'.

It was as if Tiya Dely's show mirrored Philippine history itself (her radio serial was also turned into a TV drama anthology during the Marcos regime).

Then as now, she personally reads all the letters sent to her show.

"We average 20 to 30 letters a day," she reports.

Yes, Filipinos are quite a problematic lot and they've found a straight-shooting confidante in Tiya Dely.

If you ask her, the most confounding problem she ever had to solve was a listener's unwanted pregnancy.

"She was a substitute teacher from the Visayas," she says. "Fortunately, among my listeners was a childless couple. I got them together."

Another memorable letter she found quite funny. "It was from the wife of an LVN employee. She said her husband wasn't turning over his salary. I told her to visit the studio every Friday, collection day."

Her LVN colleague was dismayed!

For logging in 65 years on the air, she has been hailed as "First Lady of Philippine Radio," a title she finds a bit daunting. "I don't know why they started calling me that. I hope the others won't feel slighted."

Standout

Occasionally, she looks back on her days as a cub reporter for dzRH. "Florentino Das, a Filipino who sailed from Hawaii to the Philippines on a boat, was honored by the Navy in Malacañang," she reminisces. "I was assigned to cover it."

At the ceremony, Dely the greenhorn stood out from among the uniformed testosterone pack.

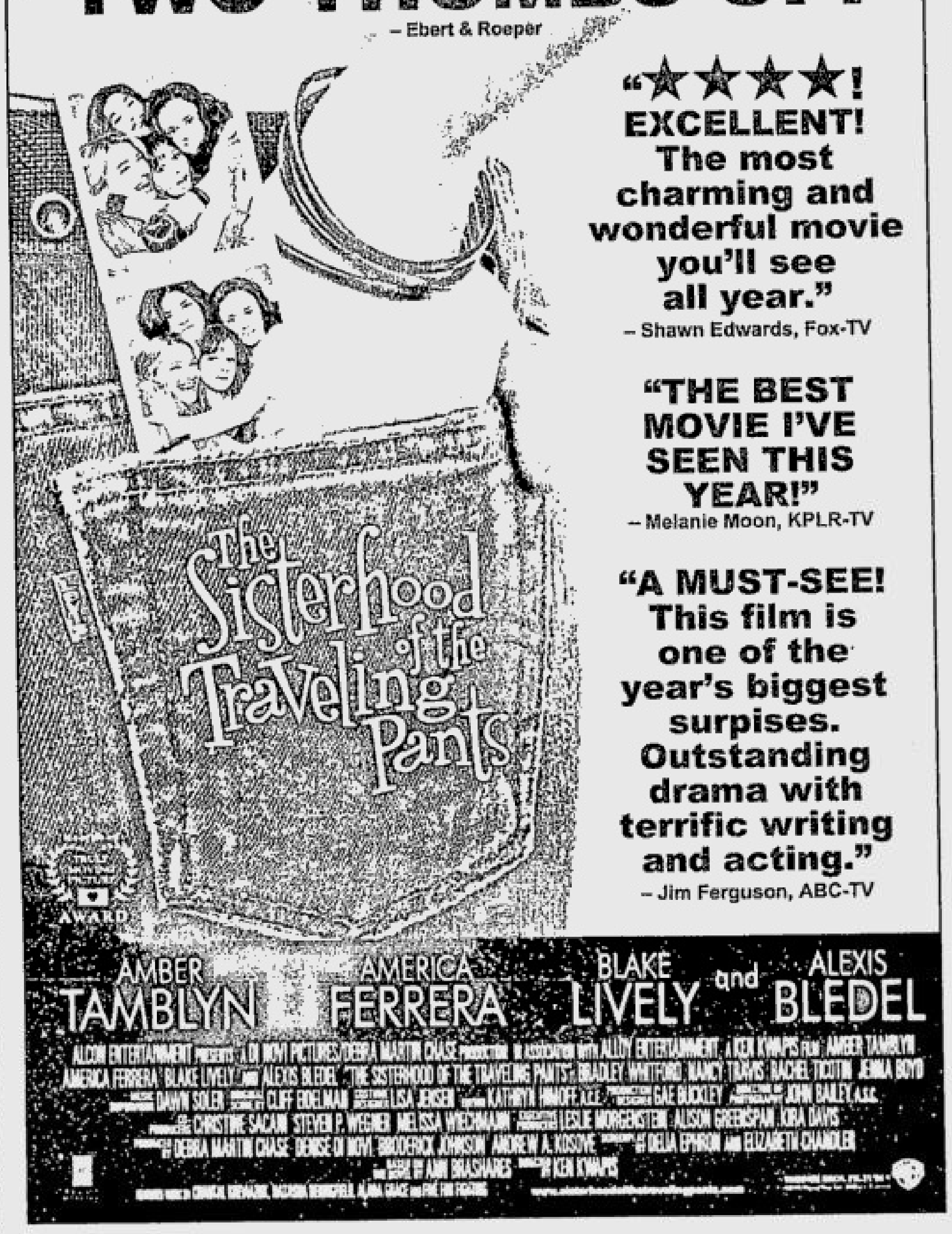
"President Ramon Magsaysay himself grabbed my mike and gave me an exclusive," she gasps. "I guess he took pity on me. Back at the station, everyone congratulated me for a job well done!"

Five decades later, Tiya Dely returned to Malacañang—this time, to receive the Pama-As Gintong Bai award from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even at the Palace by the River, Tiya Dely played the role of Aunt of Perpetual Help to the hilt.

"That was the at the height of controversies," she volunteers. "The President knows that her father, Diosdado Macapagal, was my *barkada*—we were in the presidential campaign of Manuel Roxas. When I leaned to buss her cheeks, President Arroyo whispered in my ear: 'Please help me *ha*?'"

GRAND OPENING TODAY
MTRCB RATING G General Audience | ALL AGES ADMITTED
"TWO THUMBS UP."
– Ebert & Roeper


The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
AWARD
AMBER TAMBLYN
AMERICA FERRERA
BLAKE LIVELY and ALEXIS BLEDEL

"★★★★! EXCELLENT! The most charming and wonderful movie you'll see all year."
– Shawn Edwards, Fox-TV

"THE BEST MOVIE I'VE SEEN THIS YEAR!"
– Melanie Moon, KPLR-TV

"A MUST-SEE! This film is one of the year's biggest surpises. Outstanding drama with terrific writing and acting."
– Jim Ferguson, ABC-TV

OPENS TODAY
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "SHREK" & "SHREK 2"

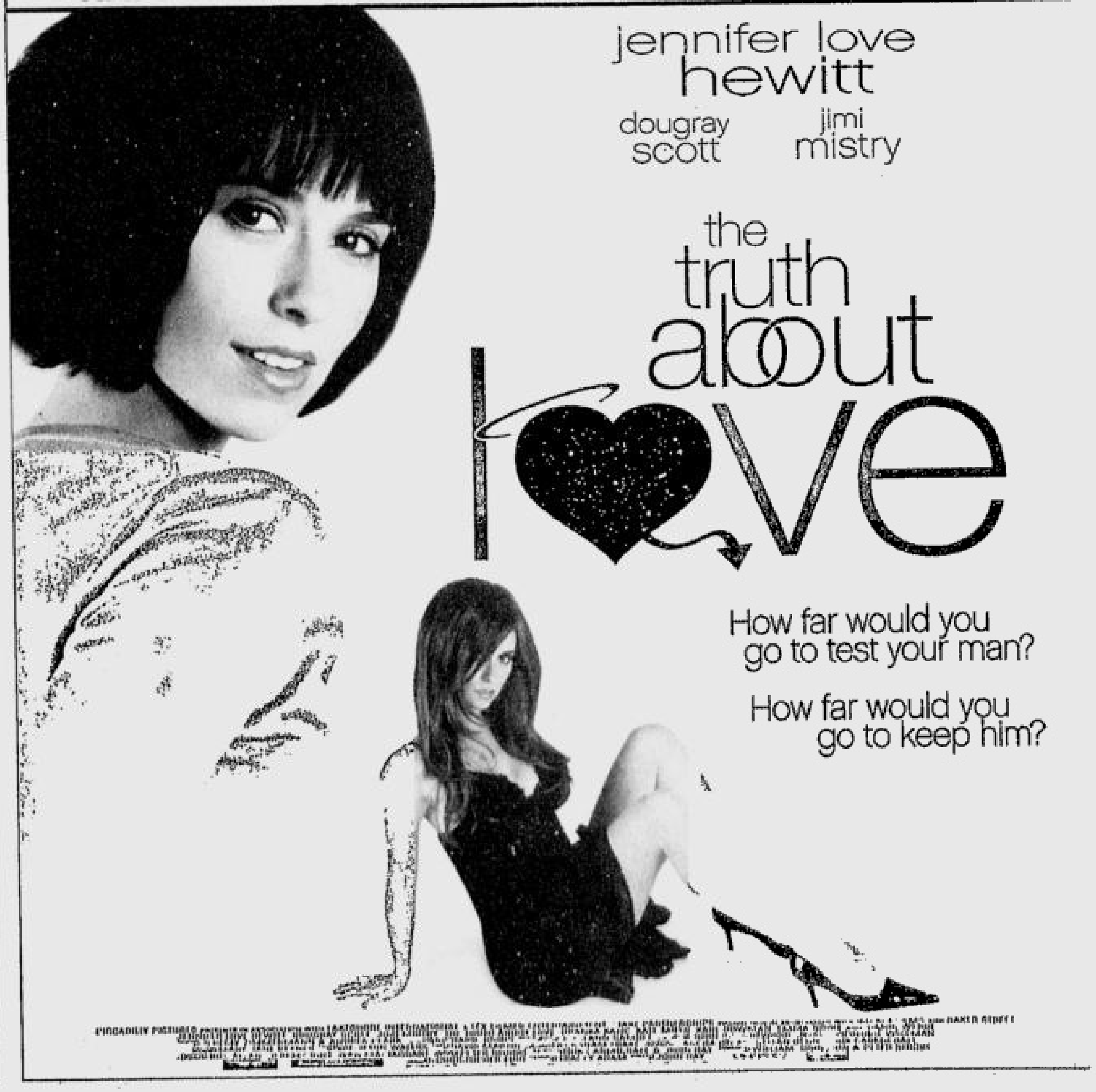
FOR LOVE
FOR HONOR
FOR COUNTRY
VALIANT

RELEASED IN THE U.S.A. BY DISNEY

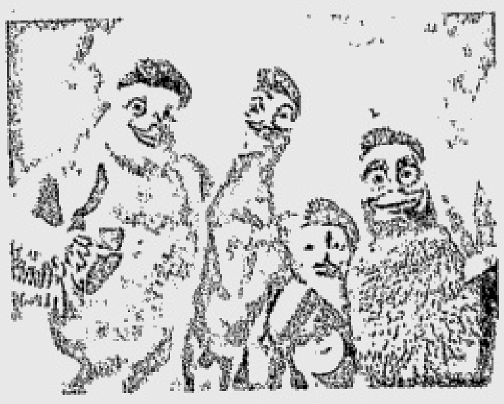
OPENS AUGUST 31
AMERICA'S 1ST BIG MOVIE FOR FALL OF 2005

PREDATORS OF THE DEEP
ENORMOUS MOUTHS.
LARGE FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE

OPENS TODAY
A "MUST-SEE" LAUGH-OUT-LOUD ROMANTIC-COMEDY FOR THOSE WHO WANTS TO LIVE HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER WITH THEIR LOVED ONES.


jennifer love hewitt
dougray scott
jimi mistry
the truth about love
How far would you go to test your man?
How far would you go to keep him?

OPENING TODAY



Valiant

Features the voices of Ewan McGregor, Jim Broadbent, John Cleese and John Hurt
Directed by Gary Chapman

Philip French wrote this March 27 review for The Observer: "Set in World War II, Valiant, a carrier pigeon (voiced by Ewan McGregor), foils the predatory German falcons (led by the Prussian Von Talon) to rescue his leader and bring home a message from the French Resistance. Not in the same class as 'Chicken Run,' which, in some respects, it resembles, 'Valiant' is a curious, mildly endearing affair featuring every possible bird joke you can think of. We even have the hero sent off from France to the strains of '*Non, je ne regrette rien*,' sung by Edith Piaf, whose name, of course, translates as sparrow."

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

Stars Amber Rose Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel, Blake Lively
Directed by Ken Kwapis

Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution wrote:

"'The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants' has a lot more going for it than the terminally lame 'Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.' Based on Ann Brashares' popular young-adult novel, the movie is about how four best friends spent their summer vacations before senior year in high school. And how each one's summer was made memorable thanks to a shared pair of jeans. Ah, yes. Those pants. Shopping at a vintage store, the girls discover a faded pair of jeans that magically fits them all. So they make a pact: They will share the jeans over the summer, each one keeping the garment for a week, then FedEx-ing it to the next name on the list... [This] isn't a breakthrough movie. Still, anyone looking for a solid, unpretentious, entertaining film with some important messages could do a lot worse than this saga of girls gone wise."

Evil Eyes (Naina)

Stars Urmila Matondkar, Anuj Sawhney
Directed by Shripal Morakhia

Cooldru16 from ND, India wrote this review for imdb.com: "The movie ... is about a girl who loses her eyesight at a very tender age. It is about a girl, who must wait for 20 years to get a cornea donor (which, I assure you, is realistic). It is about an unfortunate girl who receives the cornea of an extra-ordinary girl, from a distant land, who had the gift of seeing dead people/people about to die. This may, again, sound ridiculous but how many horror movies out there make sense?"

The Truth About Love

Stars Jennifer Love Hewitt, Jimi Mistry
Directed by John Hay

Derek Elley wrote this Aug. 3 review for variety.com: "Film set some kind of record in April by being the first British production to world premiere in South Korea—on no less than 137 screens—and open in the No. 1 slot. Hewitt's previous Brit-set romancer, "If Only," had racked up a healthy 1 million-plus admissions (some $6 million) in South Korea last fall, spurring one distrib to take a chance on 'Love.' Result was a considerably duller 350,000-or-so admissions in four weeks. Main problem with the movie is Hewitt herself, who essays a convincing English accent but seems to have left her natural sparkle with her voice tutor."

The Longest Yard

Stars Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds
Directed by Peter Segal

Nick Schager wrote in slantmagazine.com: "Just as bodily fluid jokes are a regrettable hallmark of contemporary kids' films, casual homophobic wisecracks are an unfortunate staple of juvenile 'Saturday Night Live'-style comedies—a subgenre aimed at frat boys who think nothing's funnier (and, secretly, more terrifying) than the thought of sodomy. Adam Sandler's 'The Longest Yard,' an update of 1974's Burt Reynolds-headlined classic ... is the latest member of this cinematic category, overflowing with so many gay-centric gags that it's a wonder the filmmakers didn't utilize the film's title for a penis-related pun."

Shakespeare alive and well in Metro Manila

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WILLIAM Shakespeare shuffled off this mortal coil centuries ago, but his plays are alive and well in Metro Manila this year:

Ongoing at the CCP is Tanghalang Pilipino's *jologs* take on "Romeo and Juliet," now puckishly titled "R'meo luvs Dew-Lhiett."

Beginning Sept. 2, Repertory Philippines is mounting its all-male version of "Taming of the Shrew" at Rep's Globe Theater in Greenbelt.

On Sept. 14 and 15, the British Council is bringing over Scotland's Theater Babel's touring production of "Macbeth" at the CCP.

While in the Philippines, lead actors **Lewis Howden** and **Pauline Knowles**, together with director **Graham MacLaren**, will judge the grand finals of the Shakespearean Speech competition at the Lyceum University Theater in Intramuros, at 4 p.m. on Sept. 16.

Open to all high school students, the competition will shortlist 10 finalists, who will then tackle the art of soliloquy. Call 9141011 to 14, or log on to www.britishcouncil.org.ph

The winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the UK to visit Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-Upon-Avon and the Globe Theater in London.

The event aims to stimulate and revive students' love of the English language through mastery of the literary classics and theatre, particularly the works of William Shakespeare. Yes, Ye olde Won is still shaking his literary speare!

'Retroactive'

THE ASIAN Cultural Council Philippines, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, presents "Retroactive," a retrospective of art created by ACC grantees, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 15, at the CCP's Main Gallery.

Four important figures in Philippine modern art—**Jose Joya, Roberto Chabet, Rod Paras Perez** and **Leonides Benesa**—will provide the impetus for the exhibition. They represent four crucial directions in the Philippine modern art movement (abstraction, conceptual experimentation, printmaking and art criticism).

Other grantees participating in the exhibit are **Paul Pfeiffer, Noel Cuizon, Kat Palasi, Raymond Panaligan, Sadhana Buxani, Alan Rivera, Amiel Roldan, Don Salubayba, Irma Lacorte, Jojo Legaspi, Nona Garcia** and **Gary-Ross Pastrana**.

"Retroactive" is an artists' initiative to raise funds for the ACC Philippines Fellowship Program. Works by grantees will be on sale. Since the 1960s, the ACC has provided grants to more than 300 artists, scholars, and educational and cultural institutions in the Philippines.

MTV Pilipinas

THE 2005 MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards will be held tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. Now on its fifth year, the event honors the best in Pinoy music video making.

On Cartoon Network

SUNDAYS at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. starting Sept. 4, "The Life and Times of Juniper Lee" dramatizes the exploits of a seemingly typical 11-year-old girl who has inherited the responsibility of fighting the forces of mischief and chaos everywhere. On any given day, she may have to discipline some unruly six-foot leprechauns, or smack down some troublemaking gnomes.

News on CNN

SEPT. 11-13, China Business Summit, Beijing. China is the site for this World Economic Forum business summit, which will examine the country's development plans.

Sept. 14-18, UN Summit. The United Nations has vowed to achieve eight development goals by 2015. CNN reports on member nations' assessments for the future.

Sept. 18, Afghanistan Parliamentary Elections. CNN correspondents will cover the event, which is seen as crucial for the future of the country's democratic institutions.

'Krakatoa'

AT 9 p.m. on Aug. 28, Discovery Channel telecasts "Krakatoa," a two-hour special about the mammoth eruption of the volcano off the coast of Java. The giant core exploded so violently that it was blown away.

The effects of the volcanic explosion caused a tsunami that was more than 140 feet high; hail-sized stones fell as far as 100 miles away, and the city of Jakarta fell into total darkness. For many of the area's inhabitants, Armageddon had arrived.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Laura Jea
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose		Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Global Hoops				Sentro	Global Hoops					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf Senior PGA Championships	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Atac Cat	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Pangako Mo
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		Japan Video Topic		Navy Medicine At War	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	One Bad Trip	Molo						TRL										MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				2005 WNBA Basketball				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		X-Games Files '04	Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships Finals		2005 Kaohsiung World Pool Championship				Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports				TV Shopping		GWS	Snatch Five World Tour '05 Men's and Women's Final					NBA XL	Sports Desk	Davis Cup 2nd Round '05 Chinats Day2				2005 EBC	
Sports Plus								Porsche md 9	GFS Marketplace Highlights		Kopi Turnoversion	World's Greatest Auto Shows		Lock and Load	BD Lake Tahoe	Ultimate Fighting Championship			
Cinemax	Invisible The Chronicles Of Benjamin Knight			Music From Another Room			The Cradle Will Fall (5:45PM)			Footloose (7:15PM)				Landslide			Bram Stoker's Dracula (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA, The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Agency II		Fast Food High			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unstalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers															
National Geographic		Showreal Asia		Going To Extremes		The Sea Hunters			Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Showreal Asia			
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon		Rugrats															The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares		Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Rockstar		J.A.G		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN		House		Worst Case Scenario		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season II)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Commited	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Street Hunter			Suspect				Moto X Kids			Escape From L.A. (7:20 PM)			Intolerable Cruelty			Biker Boyz (10:40PM)	Runaway Jury (10:50PM)	
Star Movies			Jeepers Creepers 2			For Love Of The Game (5:15 PM)					Swimfan			Sudden Death					
Cinema One		Bagets				Now That I Have You				Linlang			Persona	Boyong Mañalac (Hoodlum Terminator)				Hibla	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Pope: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

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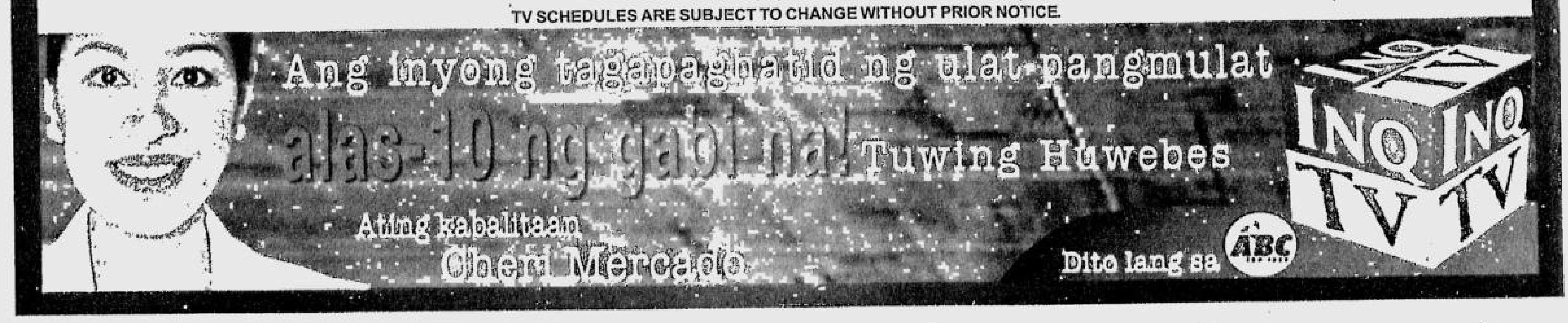

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Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
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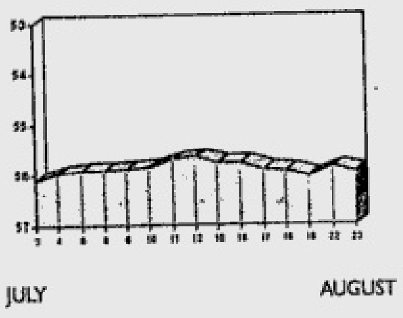
Gov't to probe decline in 'sin tax' take

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P55.960= $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2005

¥109.88= $1

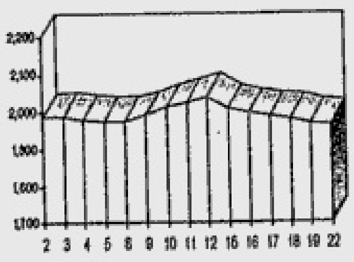
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 23, 2005

GOLD: $440.10-440.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down 1%



SHARE prices closed 1 percent lower yesterday amid renewed concern over the impeachment complaint against President Gloria Arroyo, dealers said.

They said this was compounded by worries about the consequences of higher oil prices on the economy.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 19.61 points to 1,943.76 after trading between 1,942.32 and 1,963.37. Turnover amounted to 631.99 million shares worth P1.1 billion. The broader all-shares index retreated 9.15 points to 1,182.57.

Losers beat gainers 43 to 22, while 51 stocks ended unchanged.

The peso was trading at 55.874 to the dollar at midday.

"Investors would want to see what would happen today (on the impeachment issue). If lawmakers choose the complaint filed by the political opposition, there's a good chance that it would reach the Senate. That would mean we could be in for a protracted legal exercise," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Dealers said the market could suffer a further decline after having breached the 1,950 support level.

"Technical charts show we could fall to a support of 1,920, especially this time of the year, when trading in the market is usually dull," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

The most active stock, Philippine Long Distance Telephone, fell P25 to P1,560. Its rival, Globe Telecom, ended down P15 at P720. *AFP*

Higher rates fail to boost BIR collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SIN tax law has failed to meet the government's revenue expectations in the first half, prompting the Department of Finance to call for an investigation into the weak collections from tobacco manufacturers.

Instead of increasing with the higher tax rates imposed by the new law on so-called sin products like cigarettes and alcoholic products, excise tax collections even dropped in the first six months.

Documents from the finance department showed that excise tax payments by cigarette makers slipped by 7.39 percent to P10.5 billion in the first half of the year from P11.3 billion a year ago.

The collection of excise tax from cigarette

GOV'T/ B3

AN ATTENDANT pumps "bio-diesel" into a passenger van in Manila. The Philippines has introduced bio fuels—or gasoline or diesel with coconut oil as an additive—as part of energy conservation measures amid skyrocketing prices of oil in the world market. Biofuels are not only cheaper but are also cleaner and can cut greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent, environmentalists say. AFP

Rising oil prices feared to deplete forex reserves

By Daxim L. Lucas

The country's meager US dollar reserves are in danger of being depleted if the local economy continues its voracious consumption of petroleum amid spiraling prices in the international market.

To counter this, Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Industries Inc. (PCCI) president Donald Dee is urging the government to implement a more forceful energy conservation program to cut the country's reliance on imported petroleum.

"The danger here is if we run short of foreign exchange," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Some oil market analysts are now predicting the benchmark crude oil price to hit $80 a barrel by year's end, given the continued strong demand from the United States, China and India.

"If this happens, we're looking at a doubling of our oil bill," Dee said. Documents from the Department of Energy showed that the country's oil import bill had risen by more than 28 percent to $2.3 billion in the first five months of 2005.

In contrast, the central bank holds only $17 billion in foreign currency reserves, the bulk of which were sourced from the national government's aggressive foreign borrowing program.

Oil firms are the most aggressive buyers of dollars at the Philippine Dealing System as they need a constant stream of foreign exchange to pay for their crude oil and petroleum imports.

The Energy Department has put forward a slew of energy conservation measures as well as more radical proposals such as emergency powers to implement fuel rationing—a scheme that the Makati Business Club (MBC) opposes.

In a telephone interview, MBC executive director Guillermo Luz criticized the proposal to ration fuel, saying it would fail to curb consumption significantly, just as it failed during the two fuel crise

SPIRALING/ B

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Hotel provides refuge for endangered whales

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

PROTECTING what is left of the country's endangered species is the concern of everyone, including Discovery Suites hotel.

Since 2003, Discovery Suites has been working with the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines to educate Filipinos on the state of the environment, and raise funds for WWF's various projects, with special focus on protecting Tañon Strait in the Visayas.

Gemma Batoon, director of marketing of Discovery Suites, told the INQUIRER that the hotel zeroed in on Tañon Strait as it has one of the highest concentrations of dwarf sperm whales.

WWF data showed that Tañon Strait, between the islands of Cebu and Negros, is home to nine of the 21 species of whales and dolphins found in the Philippines.

This makes Tañon Strait one of the country's premier whale and dolphin watch destinations and a priority conservation area for cetaceans in the region that should be protected.

To help raise funds for the project, Discovery Suites has developed beanie dolls featuring the whales, turtles and dolphins found in Tañon Strait.

These dolls are sold at the front desk of the hotel and at Café Berrio for the drink of the month. As much as 30 percent of the sales from the beanie dolls is donated to WWF twice a year.

Last year, Discovery Suites featured bottlenose and long-snouted spinner dolphin beanie dolls for the "Pacific Splash" drink of the month. This year, the hotel will give away green sea turtle beanie dolls for every purchase of the "Mr. T" drink of the month.

Batoon said the beanie dolls have gone a long way in raising awareness among the hotel's guests—many of whom are foreigners—on the diverse ecosystems in the Philippines that badly need support.

She said sales of the drink of the month have been brisk, and it means more funds for the WWF's projects.

As additional support, Discovery Suites shows WWF videos on the hotel's televisions as part of the educational program.

Employees have also been tapped as volunteers to pursue WWF's various conservation programs in the Philippines.

Volunteerism is championed in the hotel, which was the only Philippine company named among the Best Employers in Asia of 2003 by consulting firm Hewitt Asia.

Batoon said the volunteer program provides professional growth, harmony and teamwork among employees and, at the same time, engages the entire organization in something meaningful and worthwhile.

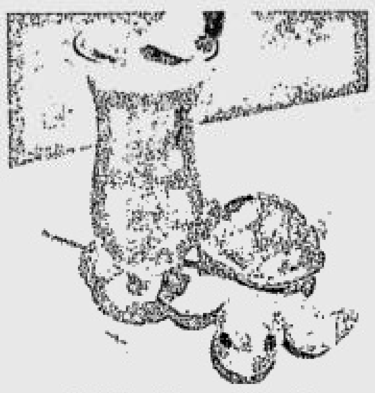
In September 2002, Discovery Suites adopted the Sagad Elementary School and, over the past three years, the school's 3,000 students have been extended a helping hand by the hotel.

Medical missions are also part of the hotel's community development program, along with the renovation and painting of select schools' facilities.

Showing concern for the environment may seem a little bit out of the league of a hotel, but Batoon said the Discovery Suites management and employees thought that it was the right thing to do, considering how important it is to nurture the dwindling population of endangered animals in the Philippines.

"The environment concerns everybody," she said. "We in the hotel are just trying to do our part."

HELPING Sagad Elementary School students is part of Discovery Suites' outreach program.



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New banking category seen to boost investment houses

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INVESTMENT House Association of the Philippines (Ihap) has submitted a proposal to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas calling for the creation of a new banking category for investment banks.

The creation of a new category will, in effect, liberalize quasi-banking in the country.

Ricardo Fernandez, former Ihap president, yesterday said the association had held discussions with BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. and some members of the Monetary Board about the proposal.

"We hope to pursue these discussions," Fernandez said during the oath-taking of a new set of Ihap directors and officers.

An investment bank acts as an underwriter or agent for corporations and municipalities issuing securities, but it does not accept deposits nor make loans. Most also maintain broker/dealer operations, maintain markets for previously issued securities, and offer advisory services to investors.

The only banking categories allowed by the BSP are commercial banks, commercial banks with expanded functions, also known as universal banks, thrift banks, and rural banks. All which have varying capitalization requirements.

Current Philippine laws allow quasi-banking. But the BSP is said to be very strict in the granting of such licenses. These entities fall into the category of non-banking financial institutions.

Espenilla said that under the General Banking Law, there was mention of "other banking categories," which had encouraged Ihap to propose the expansion of the current banking classification.

"We've had on and off discussions about it," Espenilla said. "The issue is complex and it's not one of the things I'm prioritizing right now."

According to a source privy to the discussions, the BSP is wary that the creation of a new banking category may further cause the proliferation of banks in the country.

The regulator at present is encouraging banks to consolidate.

Under the proposal, even investment houses not affiliated with banks could be classified as banks and allowed to accept deposits while performing underwriting functions.

This means that the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. would likewise have to expand its coverage, the source stressed.

Quasi-banks are said to be a unique construct of the Philippine financial system.

They are defined under the GBL as "...entities engaged in the borrowing of funds through the issuance, endorsement, or assignment with recourse or acceptance of deposit substitutes as defined in Section 95 of Republic Act No. 7653 (New Central Bank Act) for purposes of re-lending or purchasing of receivables and other obligations."

The quasi-banks are allowed to raise funds from the public (defined as more than 20 persons), e.g., by issuing promissory notes, and to re-lend those funds to others at a spread over the cost of borrowing in the first instance.

Institutions that qualify for a quasi-banking license are licensed either as an investment house or a finance company, both of which require a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In World Summit, RP to join clamor for debt-relief facility

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES will join several other countries in urging international creditors to offer a debt-relief facility for them during the coming 2005 World Summit.

Local finance officials said such a facility would offer a big relief for the Philippines, considering the country's dire need to restore its struggling fiscal sector.

To avoid rattling the credit market, most middle-income countries believe that the call for a debt relief should be done in a discreet manner, preferably through diplomats, not through government officials.

"Lending governments have these types of arrangements (with poor countries)," said Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan. "We are hoping this is extended to middle-income countries."

Tan, who is in charge of the government's international borrowings, said the Philippines supports proposals for debt relief in the form of debt-to-equity conversion and reduction in the borrowing fees charged by lending countries.

The Department of Finance, now headed by Margarito Teves, said the government was already open to talks of a debt relief, although it does not intend to be at the forefront of such calls.

Tan said the coming 2005 World Summit would be an appropriate venue to air requests of middle-income countries for a debt relief.

The 2005 World Summit will be held on Sept. 14-16 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

The summit is expected to gather over 70 heads of state and government, including President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Included in the agenda of the World Summit, aside from debt relief, are trade liberalization, and increases in aid to revitalize infrastructure and improve health and education services, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On top of the MDG is the effort to bring down the extreme poverty rate by 2015.

In preparation for the World Summit, developing countries are being asked to devise national strategies to meet the MDG targets and to facilitate transparent and accountable governance.

Developed countries are being urged to increase aid and reduce trade barriers, debt and other burdens that hamper development.

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Downloadable nomination forms are available at http://www.philsmed.com.ph or from PHILSMED at telefax: 834-2994. Deadline for submission of nomination forms is 18 September 2005.

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Calatagan polo ruling: Bye, bye, Bobby

THE SUPREME Court has just dealt a stunning defeat to Banco Filipino heir Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, ruling that the billionaire polo player must return the 62-hectare Calatagan farm and polo field to two Ricardo Silverio family corporations.

The Court's First Division, chaired by the Chief Justice, also chastised the Balayan Regional Trial Court for passing on to the higher courts the duty to resolve a question of supervening event that enabled Aguirre to hang on to the Calatagan property.

The supervening event, wherein Aguirre supposedly acquired control of the two Silverio companies plus the threat of violence should the writ be enforced, prompted Judge Roberto Makalintal to reverse ex-parte the writ of possession he issued to the Silverio companies way back in May 2000.

"Courts must execute their processes and should not succumb to threat by any party to resort to violence in case of such an enforcement," wrote the ponente, Justice Antonio Carpio.

"Nonetheless, while this case is still under litigation—it is only in the pre-trial stage—Esses and Tri-Star in whose names the Calatagan property is titled and in whose favor the order of restitution was issued, are the ones entitled to the possession of property."

According to court records, Aguirre gained control of the Calatagan farm after fellow polo player Ricardo Silverio Jr. failed to pay a P60-million loan, with the shares of the two companies that own the Calatagan farm as collateral.

What is complicating the Calatagan case is that Ricardo Jr. is himself feuding with his father, former Toyota assembler/distributor Ricardo Silverio Sr. The latter is claiming that his son had spuriously gained control of the two companies while he (Silverio Sr.) was overseas and illegally used the companies to borrow money from Aguirre.

Aguirre, according to the grapevine, refused a proposal from the elder Silverio to repay the loan and, instead, even offered the old man P50 million just to drop all claims on the Calatagan estate.

According to the Silverio family history, Ricardo Sr., now a Bulacan mayor, acquired the Calatagan property from the late Don Enrique Zobel in exchange for 200 Toyota trucks.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

McDo fattens bottom (line)

MCDONALD'S may be derided by the health police as a weapon of mass obesity, but the American fast food chain is already fattening its local owners where it counts most, the bottom line.

According to Alliance Global, the publicly listed holding company of George Yang and developer Andrew Tan, the company acquired 49-percent ownership of McDonald's from the American mother company only on March 17, 2005, but between that date and March 31, the fast-food chain already contributed P10 million in net income for the first quarter of the year.

Money-go-round

- SPEAKING of Banco Filipino, not only has the thrift bank not been holding board meetings beginning this year, it has even indefinitely postponed its annual stockholders' meeting scheduled for next month.

Reason? Pending regulatory issues with the SEC and the Bangko Sentral, as well as unresolved accounting issues with its external auditor for the 2002-2004 financial reports.

- THE SUPREME Court has rebuffed Ayala Land's refusal to accept the court-supervised deposition given by the late businessman Emerito Ramos Sr., who had signed, before his death in 1999, a conditional sale for the 65 percent of the family's 372-hectare property in Dasmariñas, Cavite, to the ASB Group.

According to court records, Ayala Land had obtained another contract to sell from the Ramos children, who were apparently acting independently of their father.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SAN Francisco-based Philippine News, still controlled by the family of Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu, has again begun entertaining takeover offers, the latest coming from an East Coast-based FilAm lawyer-businessman.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

VAT on oil products seen raising P137B for gov't

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD oil prices continue to soar, the Makati Business Club has revised its estimates on the effect of the imposition of a 10-percent value-added tax on fuel products should the Supreme Court lift its freeze on the VAT law.

According to MBC's revised estimates, local pump prices of different fuel products will go up by between 55 centavos and P2.30 a liter, as opposed to the Department of Energy's earlier projections of increases being between 55 centavos and P2.60 a liter.

Although using the current higher base prices than those used when the DOE made its forecasts almost two months ago, MBC expected diesel prices to still go up by 55 centavos a liter upon the imposition of the VAT.

But this still represented less than 10 percent of current diesel prices, which averaged around P30.69 a liter, due to various mitigating measures that would come with the implementation of the VAT law.

Under the VAT law, the P1.63-a-liter excise tax on diesel will be scrapped upon implementation of the law. Also, the government has committed to reduce the tariff on oil imports from 5 percent to 3 percent.

Prices of regular unleaded gasoline were seen to increase by P1.63 a liter to P34.08 from the current average pump price of P32.45, MBC Research data showed.

Premium unleaded gasoline prices would likely go up by P2.30 a liter, from the current price of P34.97 a liter to P37.27.

Prices of cooking gas were expected to rise by P38.85 per 11-kilogram cylinder from the current average of P388.50 per tank, while those of kerosene would increase by P1.75 a liter to P33.60.

In terms of additional revenues for the government, MBC estimates showed that collections from premium unleaded gasoline would spike by as much as 39.1 percent to almost P24.9 billion a year with the VAT.

For regular unleaded gasoline, tax collections would jump 26.4 percent to nearly P7.2 billion from the current P5.7 billion.

Tax collections from the socially sensitive diesel, despite the scrapping of the excise tax, would go up by 17.9 percent to P24.6 billion, while those from kerosene would soar 81 percent to P1.9 billion.

In total, the government was expected to generate some P137.4 billion in additional revenues by slapping a 10-percent VAT on fuel products.

Gov't to probe decline in 'sin tax' take

From page B1

firms for the first six months this year fell short of the government's forecast of P11.34 billion.

For alcoholic beverage manufacturers, the government had set an excise tax collection target of P8.6 billion for the first half. Actual collection for the period was higher at P9.06 billion. But for the month of June, the government collected only P1.3 billion, or 8.12 percent lower than the P1.4-billion goal for the month.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said he would order the Bureau of Internal Revenue to make an inquiry to explain the drop in collection despite the imposition of the higher tax rates.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the DOF, said it has started monitoring the volume of production by cigarette and alcohol firms to check the accuracy of their excise tax remittances.

The revenue agency said it has come up with a new technology that would electronically record the volume of products being released from the manufacturing plants of cigarette and alcohol companies.

Spiraling

From page B1

of the 1970s.

"Rationing will only breed corruption," he said.

The scheme will also encourage unscrupulous consumers to circulate counterfeit ration cards and open the doors to a lucrative secondary market for fuel that will eventually undermine the program.

"Besides, what we have now is a problem of price, not a problem of supply," Luz said.

The official of the influential MBC instead urged the energy department to be more proactive in disseminating tips on energy conservation.

"They haven't done a thing to give us energy saving tips," Luz said.

PCCI's Dee said he would lobby with the group's 28,000 members and 800 business firms to minimize power and fuel consumption.

In addition, he said his organization would also urge the public to reduce their reliance on "non-essential imports."

"We have to look at our imports, if they're really important, especially food items," he said, pointing to the high demand for imported snacks and "junk food" as well as imported basic food.

"Many of these things can be grown here," Dee said, explaining that preserving valuable foreign exchange was more important than price considerations in the present crisis.

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    - Looking at the Big Picture
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- Enterprise Visioning and Positioning
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  - Leadership Challenge
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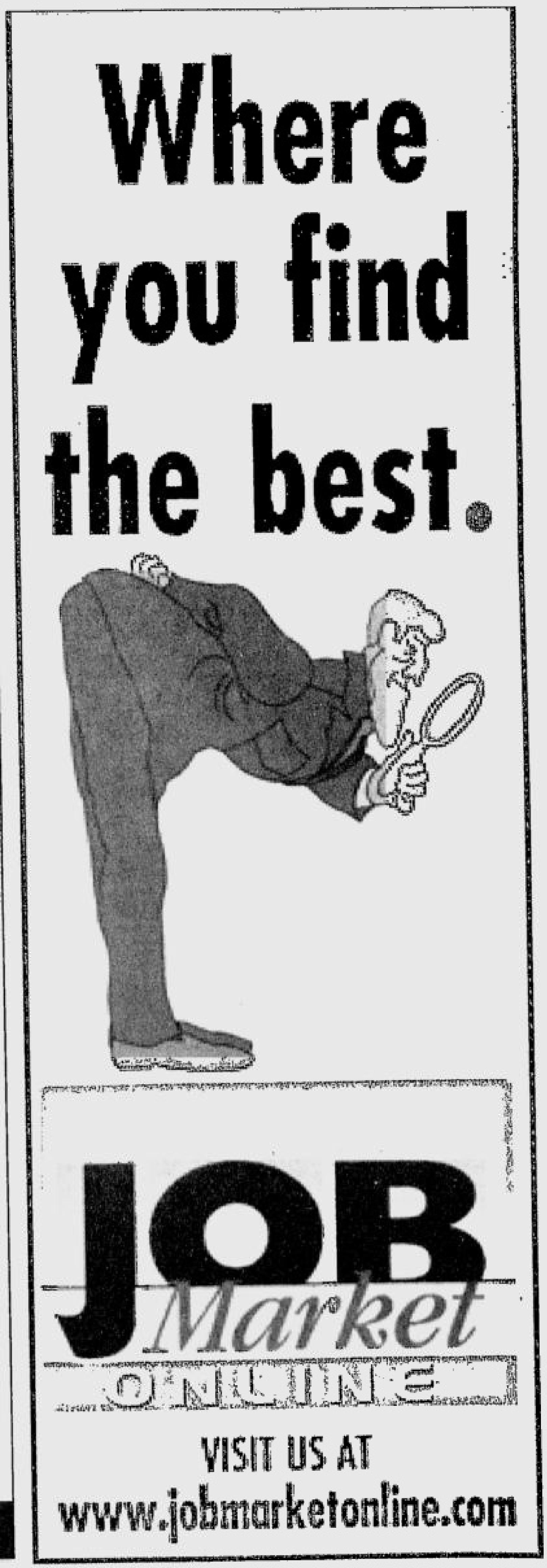

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CAP negotiating with two prospective foreign investors

Crucial part of firm's financial recovery program

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) is in talks with two prospective investors who are expected to infuse into the company fresh capital that is deemed crucial in its financial recovery program.

CAP said it had also finalized its proposed capital build-up program involving P20.9 billion in trust fund assets over eight years.

In its reply to the Securities and Exchange Commission's show cause order, CAP said it was "now seriously negotiating" with St. Augustine Humanitarian Foundation for the infusion of $4 million a year in the next five years.

Information about the foundation and the structure of the capital infusion could not be determined as of press time but sources familiar with the negotiations said the foundation was based in Rome and a part of an "old and rich group" willing to support worthy causes."

CAP said it was also in "serious negotiations" with an unnamed investor who would infuse up to $100 million if CAP could secure a dealer's license or permit to operate.

Under its proposed recovery plan, CAP expects to build up its trust fund assets through the infusion of equity worth P6.72 billion, the accumulation of discounts on its MRT bonds worth P2.52 billion and the proceeds from the development and sale of real estate assets in its trust fund. The real estate assets include Canyon Woods in Tagaytay and Harbour Town in Nasugbu, Batangas. The expansion of Manila Southwoods is also expected to raise additional P2.64 billion.

To further help it get back on its feet, CAP, in its 40-page reply, is asking the SEC to hold-off the imposition of administrative sanctions, abandon the planned creation of a management committee for CAP and to give CAP its dealer's license back to continue its business.

CAP said that without its dealer's license, which was suspended in August last year, it would be impossible for the company to complete its negotiations with strategic investors.

CAP stressed that the SEC's plan to create a management committee that would takeover the pre-need firm's management could only lead to its liquidation at the expense of its more than 700,000 plan holders.

CAP further said the SEC had no authority to form a management committee since its quasi-judicial authority had been transferred to the regular courts.

CAP was incorporated in 1980 as a pre-need company designed to help Filipino families pay for the education of its children.

Infra company raising capital by ₱1B

FIRST Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (FPIDC), a major stakeholder in the company that had expanded the North Luzon highway, will increase its capital to P3.5 billion from P2.5 billion.

FPIDC's application for authority to increase capital was filed recently with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The P1-billion increase will be financed through the conversion of stockholders' advances into equity.

As of May, advances made by First Philippine Holdings, which holds 1.55 million shares or 67 percent of P2.3 billion in subcribed and paid up shares, amounted to P2.44 billion.

Out of the increase in authorized capital stock, P627.99 million will be subscribed while P1.02 billion will be covered by the advances-to-equity conversion.

FPIDC and its partners provided $117.5 million in equity to the Manila North Tollways Corp., which is 67-percent owned by FPDIC. Its partners are Leighton (Australia), Egis (France) and tollway operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC). Former Interior and Local Government secretary Rafael M. Alunan III now heads FPIDC.

The North Luzon tollway project is a flagship infrastructure project of the government. The project is seen to boost significantly the industrial development in Bulacan and Pampanga and the Clark Special Economic Zone by providing a world-class toll road linking Metro Manila to Sta. Ines, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 23, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	32.5	33	395,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	50.5	51.5	5,604,400
China Banking Corp.	830	830	830	830	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	2,300,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53	53	52	52	92,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	512,500
Philippine National Bank	39	39	38	38	26,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	122,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2730	2740	2730	2740	250
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	40,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	142	141	142	36,490
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1995	1995	1990	1995	1,040
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	7,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1	1	1	2,790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	725	715	720	47,850
Ipeople Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	91,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	4,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	55,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,075,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1575	1575	1555	1560	209,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	540,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	10,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	6,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	23.75	617,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	3,411,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.15	3.15	1,237,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	410,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	769,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.14	264,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	90,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	2,475,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	29,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	154,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32	32	32	681,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68	68	67.5	68	243,300
San Miguel Corp. B	98	98	98	98	194,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	510,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	307.5	307.5	300	300	136,750
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	720,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.1	920,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	23,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	300,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	1,772,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,100,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.05	1,754,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.8	8	7.6	7.9	3,273,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	492,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	170,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.36	4,177,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	650,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	310,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.56	550,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	218	216	216	167,080
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	210,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	2,120,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	1,313,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	530,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.3	4,496,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,460,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	4,399,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	210,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	45,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	320,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3	6,675,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	500,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	70,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	64,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	6.2	5.6	6.2	2,604,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.9	8	7.9	8	13,000
Benguet Corp. B	22	23	22	23	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2	2	101,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	7,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	25,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	66,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	285,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.81	3,890,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.95	0.91	0.94	8,140,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	29.5	28	29	933,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	48,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,280,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	880,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc ...	9,137,180	329,942,640.00
Comm'l & Ind'l ...	87,105,750	643,855,435.00
PRO	19,065,000	93,516,620.00
Mining..	466,311,800	61,240,050.00
OIL	50,210,000	1,055,900.00
GRAND TOTALS : .	631,829,730	1,129,610,645.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc ..	571.64	DOWN 3.21
Comm'l & Ind'l.	3,067.35	DOWN 39.05
PRO	720.79	DOWN 0.87
Mining...	2,744.41	UP 84.25
OIL...	3.02	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index ..	1,182.57	DOWN 9.15
Composite...	1,943.76	DOWN 19.61

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 51; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116; NO. OF TRADES: 2,776

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan acquired 1,000 shares of PLDT on Aug. 22 at P1,585 per share.

***

EXPORT Industry Bank said an affidavit of loss was filed by Corinthian Plaza Condominium Corp., owner of a stock certificate representing 635,000 shares of the bank registered under the name of Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr.

***

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. said the board has authorized the company to file an application for registration with the Board of Investments under the 2005 Investment Priorities Plan. ***Compiled by Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817528	1.000000	55.8950
Japan	Yen	0.007454	0.009118	0.5097
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472204	1.800800	100.6557
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105204	0.128685	7.1928
Switzerland	Franc	0.643774	0.787464	44.0153
Canada	Dollar	0.680309	0.832154	46.5132
Singapore	Dollar	0.491008	0.600601	33.5706
Australia	Dollar	0.617142	0.754888	42.1945
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.168624	2.652661	148.2705
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218002	0.266660	14.9050
Brunei	Dollar	0.489537	0.598802	33.4700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.019940	0.024390	1.3633
UAE	Dirham	0.222590	0.272272	15.2186
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.223200	68.3708
Argentina	Peso	0.281421	0.344234	19.2410
Brazil	Real	0.340849	0.416927	23.3041
Denmark	Kroner	0.134129	0.164066	9.1705
India	Rupee	0.018764	0.022952	1.2829
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216938	0.265358	14.8322
Mexico	New Peso	0.076163	0.093162	5.2073
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569309	0.696379	38.9241
Norway	Kroner	0.125299	0.153266	8.5668
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013707	0.016767	0.9372
South Africa	Rand	0.126552	0.154799	8.6525
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.000972	0.0543
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025492	0.031182	1.7429

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7. Names of winners will be published in major newspapers (PDI, Phil. Star, MB). Winners will be notified via registered mail.
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9. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from the receipt of notification letter.
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Easing of rules on banks' forex holdings shelved

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas shelved a plan to relax restrictions on banks' allowable foreign exchange holdings due to pressure on the peso arising from domestic political woes and the surging prices of crude.

Prior to the political crisis that rocked Malacañang, the BSP had planned to ease the overbought limit on banks—now set at 2.5 percent of a bank's unimpaired capital or $5 million whichever is lower—for the first time since the currency turmoil of 1997.

The overbought limit refers to the amount of US dollars that banks are allowed to keep. This is to prevent massive speculative attacks on the local currency.

"It's not a priority now," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters Monday night.

Foreign currency dealers acknowledge it would be difficult for the BSP to grant their request to ease the foreign exchange limits because of the political pressures weighing on the peso.

The BSP was ready to ease the overbought limit early this year when the peso was trading at 53-54 to the US dollar on the back of strong foreign exchange inflows. However, the peso had shed most of its gains due to the rising cost of oil and the political problems in the country. It is now trading at levels near its record low of 56.45:$1.

Prior to the 1997 Asian currency turmoil, the allowable overbought position was as high as 25 percent of banks' unimpaired capital.

During the early part of the crisis, the BSP slapped a nominal overbought limit of $10 million, which was on top of the limit as a ratio of unimpaired capital.

The BSP had wanted to ease its foreign exchange regulations to let the market benefit from the rising foreign inflows during the early part of the year.

The "hot money" inflows have shrunk in recent months, however, following the suspension of the value added tax (VAT) reform law and the political crisis.

ALTERNATIVE PACKAGING
Trade Secretary Peter Favila shows a product using generic packaging materials during the launch of a program that aims to provide producers and distributors of consumer food items with alternative packaging materials that could substantially reduce production costs. EDWIN BACASMAS

UAE keeps ban on RP halal meat exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED Arab Emirates, considered the gateway to the multi-billion-dollar halal food industry, is keeping the ban on Philippine processed meat and chicken products due to lack of proper certification that the products are prepared following Islamic requirements.

Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (IDCP), said food authorities from the UAE made this decision after a mission to Manila in June.

The UAE mission—headed by the assistant secretary general of UAE's General Secretariat of Municipalities or the executive body that unites the separate emirates—came to the country to assess the possibility of resuming the purchase of halal food products from Philippine exporters.

Halal is an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible." In relation to consumables, this refers to products that Muslims are allowed to eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

Linzag said the UAE team was not able to inspect any processing plant for meat and poultry products here so it ruled out importation of these products from the Philippines.

However, the IDCP head said the UAE was open to buying plant-based foodstuffs from the Philippines.

"The ban (on animal-based products) means a significant loss to our export industry," Linzag said.

The UAE, with its busy ports and active trading, is considered the gateway to the Middle East market—the biggest chunk of the $150-billion-a-year global halal food market.

Philippine shipments first got involved in a controversy in the UAE when food authorities seized cargoes of Philippine-made 'halal' products in March 2004.

Linzag said the fiasco was mainly a result of producers not following the strict rules of halal production itself, which starts from the production of raw materials up to the packaging of finished products.

So far, IDCP is the only halal-certifying body in the country recognized by concerned international agencies such as the Jakarta-based World Halal Council.

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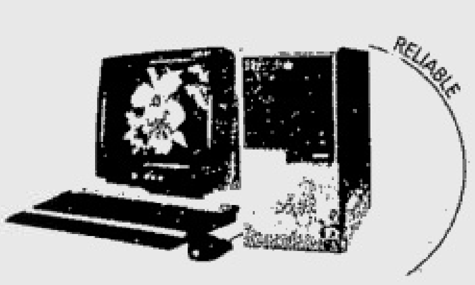

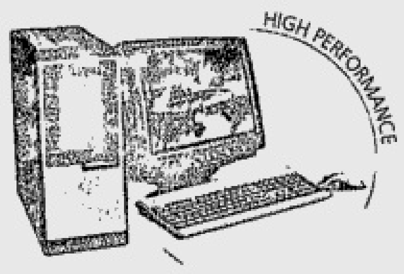

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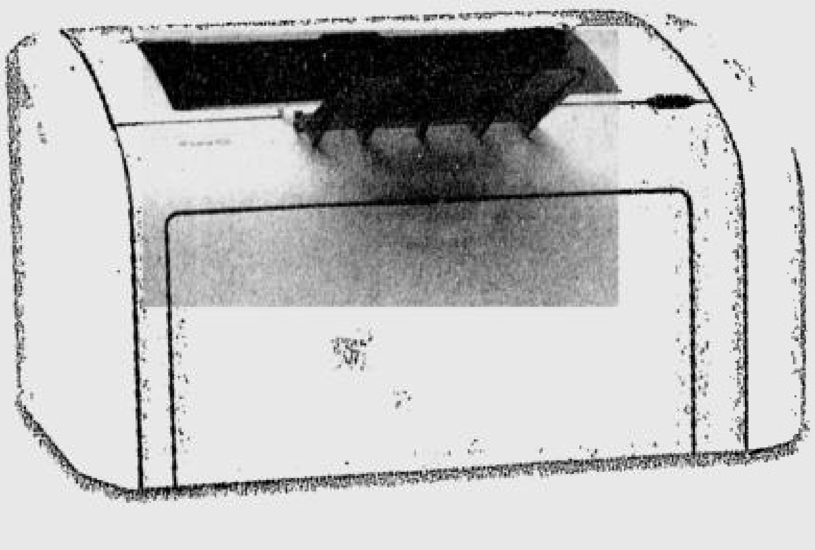

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* Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly Printer Tracker, Q1 2005

PERSISTENT DISRUPTIONS

Oil edges up near $66 on worries over supplies

SINGAPORE—Oil prices inched up towards $66 on Tuesday as fears over persistent global supply disruptions countered recovering output from Ecuador and an expected slight increase in US crude stocks.

US light crude was 16 cents higher at $65.81 a barrel yesterday morning in the new front-month October contract, after September expired on Monday up 10 cents at $65.45.

London Brent crude rose 14 cents to $64.64 a barrel.

A series of production outages have overshadowed more comfortable crude stock levels in the United States and pushed the market back towards record levels above $67 early this month.

Production in Ecuador was recovering but remained around two-thirds of its 530,000 barrels per day (bpd) level late on Monday, as the government and oil companies came close to a deal with protesters who crippled output last week.

Protesters in major exporter Nigeria ended a week-long siege of oil facilities on Monday, to pave the way for talks with Royal Dutch Shell over compensation for an oil spill and fire in 2003. Such protests underlined fears over global supply security and refining constraints that have helped keep US oil at an average of $53.79 this year versus $41.47 in 2004.

Dealers were also relieved to see Iraq's southern oil exports of some 1.5 million bpd restart on Monday after being stopped for 10 hours by a power cut.

"The situations in Ecuador and Iraq seem to be improving," said Naohiro Niimura, derivatives vice president at Mizuho Corporate Bank.

"Still, the market will rise again on a long-term basis toward winter as it responds to news that raises any supply crunch."

With some crude production in the UK North Sea and India also offline, dealers worry Opec—already pumping nearly flat out—will strain to make up any unexpected outages.

Tropical storm Jose, the 10th of an unusually heavy Atlantic hurricane season, neared land in Mexico and reminded traders that the peak September storm period is yet to come and could cause further output disruption in the Gulf of Mexico.

On the downside, analysts polled by Reuters expected US crude oil inventories to have edged up 200,000 bpd last week in government data due on Wednesday.

"Most market participants expect bearish US oil stocks data tomorrow in terms of crude inventories," Niimura said.

Worries that higher oil prices could eat into economic growth and the looming end of the peak driving season in the United States could also cause a downturn in market sentiment.

Gasoline stocks in the world's largest consumer are still expected to fall 0.9 million barrels on strong demand. *Reuters*

Asian stocks close lower; Tokyo fades

SINGAPORE—Tokyo shares hit a four-year high on Tuesday, providing support for the yen, before running into late profit-taking, while most other Asian stock markets were lower as crude oil edged up.

Tokyo's Nikkei share average ended just 0.16 percent higher at 12,472.93. That was a four-year closing high, underpinned by further positive news on the Japanese economy, but it was well below the index's best level of the day of 12,612.16.

MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was flat while its technology subindex was up marginally.

Tech stocks

Tech stocks fared best in Tokyo, with Toshiba Corp ending 1.85 percent higher, but banks dropped after a good run.

"Banks are taking a breather, but technology stocks and steel makers are now in favor as investors maintain positive views on the market," said Yusuke Sakai, manager of equities trading at Mizuho Securities.

Mizuho Financial Group Inc., Japan's biggest banking group by assets, hit a record high of 600,000 yen—up 18 percent since the start of August—but ended down 1.34 percent on the day at 587,000.

Earlier, some traders had said Tokyo's allure was draining funds from other Asian stock markets.

Demand for Japanese stocks from foreign investors underpinned the yen, although the dollar managed to claw back up to 109.95 yen by yesterday afternoon from 109.68 in late New York trade. It had slipped 0.7 percent on Monday as investors flocked to Japanese assets.

"It's all about the yen right now," said Hideaki Furuyama, manager of forex trading at Trust & Custody Services Bank. "As long as foreigners keep buying Japanese stocks we should see the yen drift higher."

Bulls encouraged

Yen bulls have been encouraged by polls showing growing public support for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and his economic reform plans heading into a Sept. 11 general election.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 was down 0.3 percent after hitting a record closing high on Monday, while Taiwan's benchmark index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng were down 0.2 percent and 0.6 percent respectively. South Korea's KOSPI ended down 0.1 percent.

Shares in LG Electronics Inc. fell 1.9 percent after Dubai-based Sovereign Asset Management sold its entire 7 percent stake in the firm, which is the world's third-largest maker of household appliances.

Japanese government bonds were initially sold as share prices rose but the market rallied after a well-received auction of 20-year bonds. The benchmark 10-year yield was down 2.5 basis points at 1.445 percent. *Reuters*

A CHINESE laborer works near a new luxurious residential property in Shanghai. Although China is the world's fastest-growing major economy, the ministry team found rural incomes last year averaged only about $355, less than a third of urban incomes.

REUTERS

Are buyers losing out to oil investors?

LONDON—Oil firms are spending more than ever in the hunt for new reserves but their investment is dwarfed by the tens of billions of dollars they are handing back to their shareholders.

Record high prices are translating into record profits for big oil. Yet the rate at which the likes of Exxon Mobil, BP and Royal Dutch Shell are reinvesting their cash is falling, according to investment bank Goldman Sachs.

As a result the industry is now sitting on $500 billion—money that French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has argued oil firms should use to satisfy consumer demand.

But when oil firms open their wallets, more often than not it is to hand cash to their shareholders in the form of dividends and share buybacks.

BP chief executive John Browne has pledged to distribute "100 percent of all excess free cash flow to shareholders."

It also raised its dividend, having paid out around $6.4 billion in 2004.

Over the same period, BP intends to invest just $9.6 billion in exploration and production.

European rival Royal Dutch Shell intends to return up to $15 billion to its shareholders this year in the form of dividends and share buybacks. Its exploration and production spending will stand at around $11.5 billion in 2005.

Miserly forecasts

Part of the problem is that oil companies evaluate drilling projects using an oil price of around $20-25 a barrel. But oil has more than doubled over the past two years and hit a record $67.10 earlier this month.

"Although it is argued that oil companies are short of investment opportunities, they actually have more options available today at current price levels than ever before," Goldman Sachs said.

There are several reasons that oil firms are reluctant to forge ahead with projects that need today's high prices to be profitable. For a start, many executives remember prices plunging to $10 in 1998-1999 when economic crisis struck Asia.

"Companies are trying to get the right balance and they want to make sure they have a prudent balance sheet," said Richard Rose, an analyst at Oriel Securities.

Added to that, as the world's oil resources dwindle, new drilling opportunities are increasingly in regions that are difficult to access, like the deep waters off Africa and South America, or politically volatile, such as Sudan and Angola.

"Quick, easy wins are harder to find. The billion barrel oil field is rarer and rarer. They need more time, more effort and more money," Rose said.

Billionaire US commodities guru Jim Rogers agreed: "There have been no great oil discoveries in more than 35 years," he told Reuters.

Fingers burned

Ron Mobed, president and CEO of IHS Energy, defended the oil industry's track record. "They don't want to stand accused of going into another boom-bust cycle with their eyes shut."

The petrodollar bonanza has indeed made life more complicated for multinationals unaccustomed to such staggering amounts of revenue.

"The oil majors have got all this surplus cash but they're not really geared up to invest at significantly higher levels," said Derek Butter of Wood Mackenzie.

Wood Mackenzie consultancy sees upstream spending by the world's 10 largest international oil companies at record highs near $50 billion through next year. That should boost their production growth by 3.5 percent per year between 2003 and 2008. *Reuters*

Japan firms see recovery, survey says

TOKYO—Japanese business confidence failed to pick up in August, a Reuters survey showed on Tuesday, but companies were more upbeat about the months ahead, a view backed by government data showing strengthening domestic demand.

Soft patch

The Reuters Tankan, a monthly survey of big firms formerly known in financial markets as the Telerate Tankan, showed companies think the economy is still in a soft patch but will soon start to show more solid growth.

The survey's diffusion index (DI) for manufacturers was unchanged from July at plus 16, struggling at its lowest level since February. The index for non-manufacturers slipped one point to plus 17.

Still, expectations for the DI three months into the future were sharply higher at plus 29 for manufacturers and plus 21 for non-manufacturers.

"It seems businesses are staying cool-headed despite the euphoria in the stock market," said Takehiro Sato, economist at Morgan Stanley Japan.

"But the global economy has been picking up slightly in the July-September quarter, so you can expect the DI to improve in September and beyond."

In a sign that businesses think Japan's economy is about to move to firmer ground, 30 percent of manufacturers said the economy would return to a growth track in the October-December quarter and 27 percent said January-March. A further 18 percent expected the breakout in the current quarter.

Homespun growth

Both the government and the Bank of Japan upgraded their assessment of the economy earlier this month.

Gross domestic product data showed the economy grew at at annualized rate of 1.1 percent in three months to June, led by domestic consumption and capital spending, as well as a recovery in exports.

Data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on Tuesday showed that a business activity index for the tertiary sector—comprising mainly the broadly defined services industry—rose 1.0 percent in June from a month earlier.

The rise, roughly in line with the market's forecast for a 0.9-percent gain, underscored expectations that domestic demand would lead the economy back onto a growth track.

But at the same time, the outlook has been clouded by high oil prices and uncertainty over China—now Japan's largest trading partner—in the face of Beijing's economic tightening policies and revaluation of the yuan currency.

"Business sentiment is affected not only by sales but profits. Perhaps there is concern that higher crude oil prices will push up input costs," said Mamoru Yamazaki, senior economist at HSBC Securities. *Reuters*

China's CNPC to buy PetroKazakhstan for $4.2B

LONDON/SINGAPORE—State-owned Chinese oil company CNPC plans to buy PetroKazakhstan for $4.18 billion, the companies said on Monday, in what would be China's first successful takeover of a foreign-listed energy firm and the latest move in its aggressive push to secure more oil.

But CNPC's path to closing the deal quickly became more difficult as India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. said it was working on a counter-bid.

The deal would give CNPC access to PetroKazakhstan's 150,000 barrels per day of production—a small fraction of China's 6 million barrels per day of consumption but a step nonetheless for the world's second-largest oil-consuming nation and its fastest-growing major economy.

It also comes just weeks after compatriot CNOOC Ltd. was foiled in its bid to acquire the American producer Unocal for $18.5 billion.

"It's a very high price but this is a strategic investment. Finally, it's reserves that you can bring to China," said Stephen O'Sullivan, oil analyst at United Financial Group in Moscow.

CNOOC's failure to acquire Unocal, in the face of unexpectedly heavy political backlash in a Washington concerned over America's own future oil needs, was widely seen as only a temporary setback to China's national oil plans.

Indeed, industry sources familiar with the strategy of Chinese state oil companies said they may have put more overseas listed energy concerns on their radar screen, such as Britain's BG, some Canadian oil sand producers, and possibly exploration and production companies listed in Australia or London.

"There is a clear logic for the Chinese in this acquisition as they further strengthen their position in Kazakhstan, whose output is growing fast and which controls 3.3 percent of global oil reserves," said Steven Dashevsky, chief analyst at Aton Brokerage in Moscow.

The deal is not considered a sure thing, however.

PetroKazakhstan has a rocky relationship with Kazakh authorities, and has fallen out with Russia's LUKOIL, its partner in a joint-venture in the Central Asian country.

CNPC will also have to contend with a potentially larger offer from India's ONGC, which said it would make a counter-offer if asked to do so by PetroKazakhstan.

Aton's Dashevsky said his calculations showed CNPC had agreed to pay $69 per barrel of oil production and $7.10 a barrel in reserves.

KAZAKH workers mine oil at the mine field of China National Petroleum Corp. near the town of Aktyubinsk, Kazakhstan.

CNPC, the parent of PetroChina, the world's fifth-largest listed oil company, will pay $55 a share in cash, a 21.1 percent premium to Friday's closing price, said PetroKazakhstan, which is Canadian-listed but has all of its operations in Central Asia.

Hong Kong-based energy equities analysts said they expected CNPC to inject PetroKazakhstan's assets into the Chinese firm's overseas assets joint venture with its listed arm, PetroChina, if the takeover is completed.

A recently established joint venture set up by CNPC and PetroChina is looking at 10 overseas deals, a PetroChina executive said earlier this year.

China already has substantial operations in Kazakhstan, which include a giant pipeline pumping crude to China from the oil and gas-rich former Soviet state.

China imports about 40 percent of its daily oil consumption—an amount roughly equivalent to the entire 2.5 million bpd production of Kuwait and set to increase in coming years. *Reuters*

BUSINESSBRIEFS

Toshiba, Sony fail to unify DVD format

A UNIFIED format for next-generation DVD technology appears to have become impossible after the Sony Corp.-led group and the Toshiba Corp. bloc failed to reach agreement in their negotiations on a standard format, sources said Monday.

Sony, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and other companies support the Blu-ray format, while Toshiba and others back the HD DVD format.

Time is running out for the joint development of a new format for marketing next-generation DVD products from the end of the year. As a result, there will be two incompatible DVD formats and software products on the market. *The Yomiuri Shimbun/Asia News Network*

National Foods' Yoplait brand outpaces market

MELBOURNE—National Foods Ltd., San Miguel Corp.'s newly acquired dairy business in Australia, has reported a 30-percent value share for its yogurt business under the Yoplait brand, up 14 percent over last year and outstripping market growth by 10 percent.

This performance has strengthened National Foods' national yogurt market leadership position to the extent that the company is now almost four percentage points clear of its nearest competitor.

The company has undertaken an extensive new product and packing development program and has seen over 70 new products, packaging formats, formulations or flavors launched onto the Australian market within the last 12 months.

T-bond rate down to 11.875%; market upbeat

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INTEREST rate for the 10-year Treasury bond dropped yesterday, as market players outbid each other for the government's long-term debt offering.

The 10-year debt instrument fetched an interest rate of 11.875 percent, 50 basis points lower than the 12.375 percent recorded in its auction last February.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan attributed the drop in the rate to the high level of cash in the market and the confidence of investors in the government's long-term prospects.

"The new rate is even better than the secondary market rates," Tan said in a press briefing. He noted that the 10-year bond was trading at an average rate of 12 percent in the secondary market.

Demand for the Treasury bond was high, as the volume of bids reached P8.246 billion, more than double the government's offer of only P4 billion.

The Treasury's auction committee accepted P4 billion worth of bids, raising in full the government's intended borrowing.

The result of yesterday's auction for the 10-year bond was a stark contrast with that of the Treasury bills last Monday, indicating the market's comfort with the government's long-term—rather than short-term—fiscal standing.

T-bill rates rose across all maturities the other day, with the bellwether 91-day bill rate rising by four basis points to 5.662 percent.

Meanwhile, the finance official said the Treasury was set to issue retail treasury bonds (RTBs) this month to take advantage of the cash in the market.

RTBs, unlike the regular government securities, cater to small investors as only a small amount was required to invest in the debt instrument.

"They (banks) are already positioning themselves to buy RTBs, given their level of liquidity and the appetite of small savers for such an investment opportunity," Tan said.

Shell starts sale of CNG in Sept.

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SHELL group of companies in the Philippines plans to start selling compressed natural gas next month.

"We'll get all the required equipment from Argentina by the end of the month and we'll conduct safety audits on them. We should be ready for operation by the middle of September," Shell chair Edgar Chua told the INQUIRER.

The CNG station along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan, Laguna was originally scheduled to start operations in June.

But the opening had to be postponed several times to enable the oil firm to complete the acquisition of the CNG equipment needed to service the first 200 CNG-fired buses that would serve the Batangas-Manila-Batangas route, Chua said.

By next month, some 80 buses would be able to buy CNG—which costs about half as much as diesel - under the government's seven-year pilot Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).

Under the program, the Department of Energy signed a memorandum of agreement with Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project consortium members Shell Philippines Exploration BV (SPEX) and Chevron Texaco Malampaya to peg the price of CNG at only P14.52 per cubic meter, or less than half the current diesel pump price of more than P30 a liter.

Before year-end, around 200 buses plying the Batangas-Manila-Batangas route will be able to avail themselves of the cheaper CNG.

Earlier in the year, SPEX broke ground for the CNG mother station along the SLEX in Tabangao, Batangas.

The commissioning of the CNG station jumpstarts government's NGVPPT aimed at easing the country's heavy dependence on imported oil.

Chua said that while the Shell group was committed to support the NGVPPT, the company would have to consider various factors before deciding on additional investments in the project.

The seven-year pilot run of the NGVPPT would give the Shell group a good idea of the CNG prospects, including cost components that it might have overlooked in computing the agreed CNG price, the actual maintenance costs of the buses, fuel efficiency, actual demand for the product and the feasibility of bringing CNG elsewhere.

"We need to have a clear understanding of the commercial attractiveness and operational feasibility of the program before thinking of expanding," Chua said. "That's why we have a pilot program, so we can see these things."

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Lady CEO brings in the money for Pinoys

ORLINA RYAN LIM

By Cecile G. Garcia
Contributor

CAREER TALES

TO A GREAT extent, Carmencita T. Orlina epitomizes today's newly emerging business executive—young and energetic, self-driven, sophisticated, savvy and totally comfortable in the present global business setting.

Orlina is country director of Western Union Financial Services (H.K.) Limited, an international money transfer company. She joined Western Union in July 2001. In March of this year, Orlina was named vice president, Philippines and Inbound Business Asia Pacific Region, a position she holds in a concurrent capacity.

An expert in marketing, Orlina has a degree in BS Statistics and an MBA from the University of the Philippines. She also attended the Philippine Science High School. Love of numbers prompted her to pursue statistics, says Orlina. She discloses, "My career path became clear to me when I was in third year college. The case studies we did helped me envision what I wanted for myself. I decided to go into marketing. It would serve as my entry into the corporate world."

Marketing background

Following the career path she had set for herself, Orlina first worked as a marketing research analyst for San Miguel Corporation. Later, she joined pharmaceutical giant Pfizer as a marketing management trainee. Orlina stayed with Pfizer for 13 years, honing her skills in marketing as well as in sales. And while marketing was always her first choice, her career at Pfizer reached a high point when she was asked to lead its sales organization. She was marketing director when she quit the company in August 2000. "There was a change of management and I felt it was time to move on," she explains.

After an extended sabbatical, Orlina signed up with Western Union. She says, "The company excited me because it was relatively new here." Based in Denver, Colorado, Western Union used to be a telegram company. It is now engaged in money transfer. Western Union money transfer service has been available in the Philippines since 1990. "Until recently, it was being run by remote from Hong Kong," says Orlina. "In a way, I pioneered it. I was the one who set it up here, both the local organization and the brick and mortar office." Her designation as country director has so far resulted in improving Western Union country ranking from 12th in 2001 to 5th in 2004 and in doubling its market share within a period of two years, from 2002 to 2004.

Bringing in business

What exactly is expected of Orlina as country director? She points out, "Basically, I should be able to fully tap the potential of Filipino workers overseas. I should also be able to make the company known and to make people understand what it does." On another level, she is in charge of day-to-day operations and is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the company. And her basic function as regional VP? She says, "My duty is to help drive the business from North America, Europe and the Middle East into the Asia Pacific Region." In line with this, she travels abroad at least twice a month.

The company maintains a very lean organization locally. "There are only 10 of us, including myself," says Orlina. Expectations and standards are very high. "Our standards are actually the highest in the region," she adds. Overall, the culture is one in which teamwork thrives and politics is totally absent.

Roles

She's many things to her staff, claims Orlina. "I play different roles," she admits. "I'm coach, mentor, mother confessor, sister and friends to them. I also teach. But, I'm not a nurturing teacher. I challenge." She sets very high standards and has equally high expectations. Her management style is characterized by "situational leadership." I assess the competence level of the individual, the highest is four, and take it from there."

Passionate about her job, Orlina recalls the initial challenge it presented. "It was hard working with agents. You see, Western Union provides money transfer service through a network of agents. The problem then was that each agent wanted to follow a different path. I had to convince them that I was there to orchestrate and to ensure that we had a common goal." In time, she was able to overcome their resistance and to earn their respect by coming up with results.

Toughest challenge

Today, Orlina faces a different kind of challenge, perhaps a tougher one. She says, "Because my job essentially is to create a demand for our service among Filipinos scattered all over the world. I have to be able to influence, convince and negotiate with my foreign counterparts to help us create that demand through their marketing programs. I realized I had to develop a relationship with them." During her first year in office, Orlina traveled to 25 countries in order to meet her long-distance friends. "I did more than that. I also succeeded in selling the Philippines." Orlina maintains her friendship with her foreign counterparts.

Experience has taught Orlina the importance of relationships. "They make a lot of difference, especially in a global setting and in my kind of job. I have also learned which battles to fight and which to forego, and when to let the other person win," she contends.

Orlina is result-oriented and is relentless in pursuing her objectives. She's dedicated and hardworking, "I've earned everything through hard work," she remarks. Respected by both her superiors and her subordinates, Orlina claims being street smart is her best asset. She explains, "Being street smart is having a good pulse of the market and being able to relate with it. It's being able to respond quickly and creatively to different stimuli. Being street smart is being able to spot opportunities and to capitalize on them."

Privileges

In terms of achievement, Orlina considers setting up Western Union locally and serving as its first country director, highly significant. "Working with at least 25 countries everyday is a privilege. I like my job, its global nature, and the challenge of dealing with different cultures," she says. Another achievement is seeing those she mentored in the past succeed in their respective fields.

Raised in Batangas, Orlina enjoys *telenovelas* and unwinds by watching them. She also plays tennis on weekends. Though still single, she does not discount the possibility of having a family in the future. She says, "I hope to be able to make a significant difference in another person's life one day." But, her ultimate goal is to put up a nonprofit school for academically gifted children. "It will be in the genre of the Philippine Science High School, but, its emphasis will be on values."

Are you in the right career?

By Eric G. Asuncion and Gina Hechanova
Contributors

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

SEARCHING for the perfect career is human nature. Young children dream of what they want to be when they grow up. High school students long to know what careers they are most likely to succeed in. College students burn the midnight oil to prepare for a career. College graduates wear out the soles of their shoes, appear in countless interviews and fill out numerous applications forms with the hope of finding the right job and employer. The lucky ones are able to find the occupation that fits their interests and talents early on.

Unfortunately, there are also many who go through life and jobs in search of an occupation they can truly be happy in. To know the extent of this mismatch of passion and career, in this month's People At Work Pulse, we asked readers, "Is your current job your chosen career?", "Do you have a career plan?", "Do you know your career option?", "Who is mainly responsible for your career development?" and "What are the programs that your organization provides?"

Job vs career

A total of 30 respondents participated in the survey. Eleven males and 19 females with an average age of 32 expressed their opinions on career support programs. These respondents were employed in various fields ranging from the academe, government, non government organizations, to the banking and automotive industries.

The good news is that most employees appear to know what they want. A total of 80 percent of the respondents stated that they have a career plan. Unfortunately, only about half (53 percent) reported that their current job is their chosen career, 10 percent were uncertain and 37 percent said their current jobs were definitely not in line with the careers they want. It may be that for the latter group, the need to survive takes precedence to doing what they really want.

A great majority (85 percent) of respondents felt that they themselves were mainly responsible personally for their career development. A minority (11 percent) felt that their supervisors were the ones who were responsible for their development in their careers and 7 percent of the respondents felt that HR was responsible for their career development in the organization.

Organizational support

Although the results suggest that employees accept primary responsibility for their career growth, employers do need to play a role as well. For example, an important part of career growth is knowing what opportunities are available. When asked if they knew their own career options in their present organizations, over half of the respondents (52 percent) were aware of career alternatives whereas 19 percent did not know of their career options within the organization.

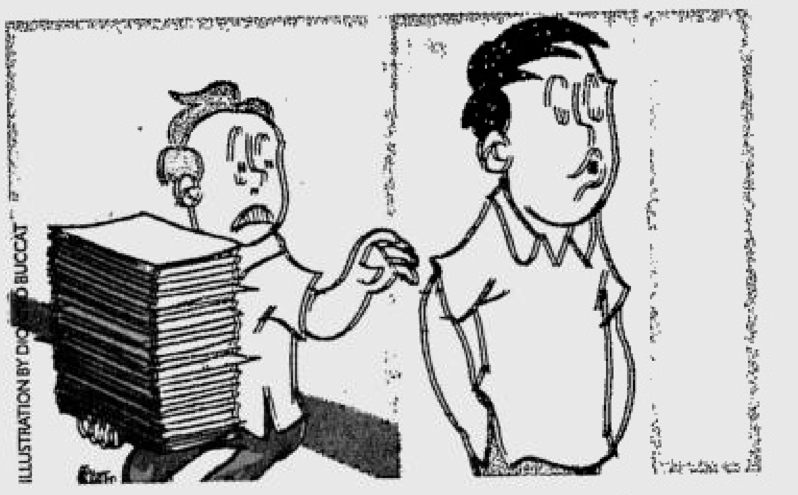

ILLUSTRATION BY D[illegible] BUCCAT

Two-thirds of respondents reported that they receivé coaching from their supervisors in their organizations. Half of the respondents believe that the training programs provided by their organizations facilitate their career development while 26 percent said that their organizations provide them information on career options or paths. Twenty two percent of the total respondents reported that their organizations provide them with information on promotion opportunities. Only 15 percent said their organizations provide them with mentoring programs and even less (7 percent) said that their organizations provide them with career planning workshops

Developing careers

Responsibility for one's career rests in ourselves. This means we need to take time to get to know ourselves and envision our futures. Perhaps we also need to learn to be more proactive in obtaining information about our opportunities both inside and outside our organizations.

However, managers should also realize that they have a responsibility in coaching and mentoring their employees. In addition, employers also have a role to play by providing the employee with assistance in career planning, assessment, coaching, mentoring and other career development programs. In the growing competition to get the most talented people, employees are looking not just for what company will pay more but where they will grow most. Career development programs may thwart employee turnover because if employees feel valued and know they have a future in the organization, it may prevent them from deciding to jump to where the grass seems to be greener.

(*Eric Asuncion is a program officer at Ateneo CORD. Gina Hechanova is a faculty member of Ateneo and a Director at Ateneo CORD. For feedback or questions on this article contact* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

Working for an outsourcing organization

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from last month's survey are **Mary Jean Salalima** and **Quenie Lambino**. (Please contact Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. Do you work in an organization that provides outsourcing services?
   a. Yes
   b. No
2. What products/services does your organization provide?
   a. Marketing
   b. Finance/Accounting
   c. Sales
   d. Management
   e. Maintenance
   f. Legal
   g. Secretarial/Clerical
   h. IT/MIS
   i. Security
   j. Human Resources
   k. Research
   l. Others: ______________
3. Who are your clients?
   a. Local
   b. Foreign
   c. Both local and foreign
4. What do you like about working in an outsourcing organization?
   a. Compensation
   b. Organization Culture
   c. Learning new skills
   d. Training opportunities
   e. Working schedule
   f. Interaction with international clients
   g. Others: ____________
5. What do not you like about working in an outsourcing organization?
   a. Working schedule
   b. Dealing with irate customers
   c. Job insecurity
   d. Unpredictable work volume
   e. Repetitive/routine
   f. Lack of decision-making opportunities
   g. Others: ____________

Name: ______________________________
Gender: ______________ Age: _____ Status: ___________
Nature of the Job: _______________ Position: ___________
Company name: ___________________________
Industry: _______________ No. of years working: ________
Tel/ Mobile/E-mail: ___________ ______________

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Learn to delegate

By Megan Tough

THERE is not a single management skill more critical to your personal and professional success as an entrepreneur than learning to delegate. But delegating successfully is much more than simply handing out assignments. It is more an exercise in understanding and accepting our own strengths and limitations.

In this fast-paced world, we must choose what activities it makes sense for us to do ourselves and what it makes sense to let go of. None of us can be an expert in everything—not because of any lack of intellectual ability, but more because we lack specific exposure or experience. We must learn to accept this fact and be okay with it.

Fill the gaps

Let's consider a real life example. My own areas of expertise lie in business and operational management, understanding people and coaching. This is my business. When I wanted to create a single web page to market a workshop I was developing, I had to make a decision. I have (very) rudimentary skills in web page creation. While all of the software I need is at my fingertips, the question is "Do I really have time to learn it?"

I ask myself: "Should I spend several hours—probably a whole day if I'm being honest—learning to grasp the software and design my own web page?" "Or should I spend some money and hire somebody who already knows the software?" Then all I need to do is supply the content.

I am tempted to do it alone—after all, I love technology and knowing how to use it (that's my ego talking!). But at the end of the day, my time is better spent working on other aspects of the business. So I outsourced the job.

Experts and partnerships

In making your own decisions, the key is in determining what you need to know, want to know, must know, and already know. And how your time would best be spent.

Jack of all trades, master of none. The old adage holds a lot of weight in today's entrepreneurial environment. No one can possibly run a small business alone.

Anyone who has their own business will know that they could never have gotten it off the ground without the help of at least an accountant and a lawyer. Perhaps you also needed a graphic designer or administrative assistance.

Power of delegating

It is important to surround yourself with competent experts who have complimentary areas of expertise. Choose carefully and wisely and be ready to compensate these individuals for a job well done. These people are your business partners—people who will give you the advice and information you need to make decisions. When you build excellent relationships with your partners, you may be able to arrange better terms. Payment need not always come in the form of dollars. With strong partner relationships, you may be able to trade your expertise for theirs.

LEARN/ B9

Practice makes perfect English

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
For the Anxious Person at Work

LAST Saturday, the graduates of the Ancilla English Jamming Program delivered their valedictory speeches. It was obvious that they have gained greater confidence and competence in their pursuit of mastery of the English language.

But the key to language proficiency is practice and more practice. Here are some of the techniques and structures that our readers have shared that have helped them in their English improvement journey. Thank you for your contributions.

From NIG, International Hospital of Bahrain: "This is just a short rejoinder on the subject. I would encourage the letter sender to try the Toastmasters. If she can speak English and all she needs is to polish her use of spoken English, then Toastmasters would be the most cost-effective option. There are more than 100 Toastmasters Clubs in the Philippines and just recently, Philippine Toastmasters (District 75) turned out to be the top Toastmasters district in the world. I am tempted to endorse my specific club based in Petron Megaplaza in Makati City but it is best for a person to choose a club where she will be the most comfortable."

From BH: "English proficiency can only be attained when the person actually uses the language as part of daily life. My suggestion is for the person to read just about anything orally and even record it with a tape recorder from time to time. A good one hour a day would be a great exercise. I read by mouth J.R.R Tolkien's six books on 'The Silmarillion,' 'The Hobbit,' 'The Lord of the Rings (Trilogy),' and 'The Unfinished Tales.' And it was all worth it.

"By the way, the best way to learn proficiency fast is to think of a character in any TV show and imagine how that actor reads and speaks the words. Imagine yourself delivering the lines. It made a big difference for me. What I did was to try this technique with all six characters of the TV series 'Friends.' It was amazing I can actually deliver the words so differently from character to character. When I finally was speaking like the way Jennifer Aniston does, my goal of English proficiency has been finally achieved. But you have to be familiar with the show first, I suggest renting it from a video store.

"I think what I did was pretty unorthodox. But I can attest that this works for learning the basics. The important thing to learn is actual communication with English. This I learned from using it day to day at work. When I finally moved to Canada three years ago, people would often say how come I have a good accent. Deep in my mind there's only Rachel, Phoebe, Monica, Chandler, Ross and Joey.

"I hope this would be a great help to others."

From ND: "I really don't know how to begin my e-mail to you. I read the letter sent to you about someone who worries about her English. I think Filipinos are just too concerned about talking perfect English. There is no such thing as perfect English. I have lived here in Canada and I have seen and talked to people around the world. I have never seen or heard perfect English. Each country has their own way of speaking and writing their version of perfect English. You are right. Practice, practice, practice is what people must do everyday. You will find your way to English fluency, just don't be afraid to talk."

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph)

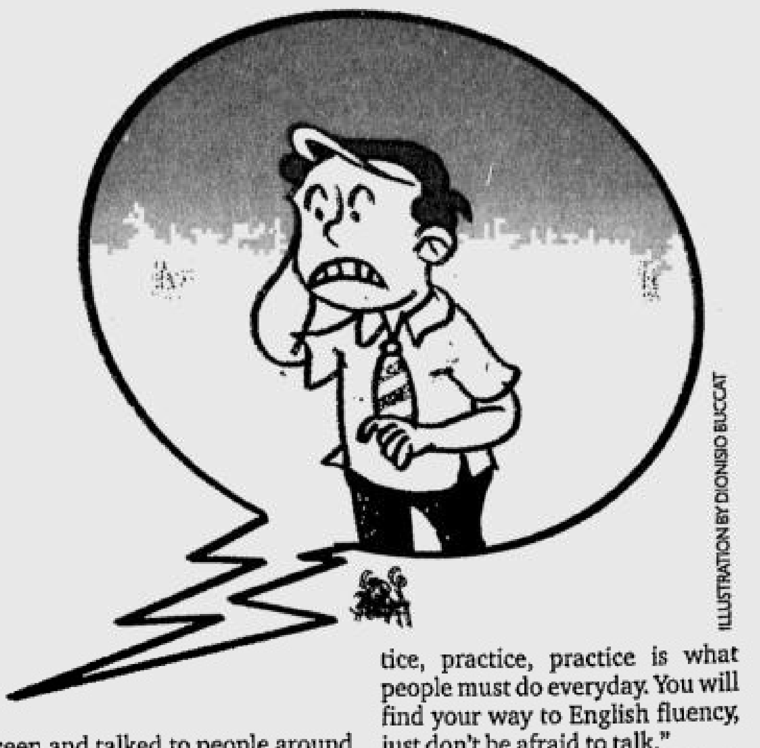
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

How can you become less cynical at work?

DEAR WW: Recently I was having lunch with some coworkers and I realized that every word coming out of my mouth was negative. What can I do to become less cynical?

I've seen the enemy, it's me

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Your e-mail reminded me of the school board election in Mississippi County, Arkansas, earlier this fall. There was no winner, because not one person voted in the entire election. Not even Carl Miner, a candidate for the school board, who just so happened to be the only person whose name appeared on the ballot.

It is always easy to sit back and adopt the cynical position, "nothing that I do or say will matter." Miner found out that even when just one person stands up to be counted it can make a world of difference. It's no different at work where just a few people can change the attitude of an entire workplace. I've listed some ways to do this below. For more, check out Diana De Lonzoe's book "Never Be Late Again" (Post Madison, 2003)

Is it time to get reconnected to the people you work with? Is e-mail your exclusive way to communicate these days? Increasingly, we are becoming a collection of individuals at work rather than being a community of people working together. After five e-mails, I try to call someone. After 10, I meet with them face-to-face. Seek to have real relationships at work rather than just a bunch of pen pals.

When was the last time you did a favor for someone at work? Part of the reason we get cynical is because we view work as a zero-sum game, to get ahead someone else has to fall behind. I think that we can all gain at work by working together. The best way to start the process is to look for opportunities to do favors for other people that you work with. Everyone I know who has tried this reports that it's not only fun to do, but that they get a lot of people starting to return the favor and doing favors for them.

Working Wounded
Bob Rosner

Can you consciously try to look on the positive side of things? It is easy to sit back and make fun of everyone and everything. It's tougher to actually try to contribute to creating a better workplace and better working relationships. Instead of always focusing on what's wrong, seek to find solutions to problems at work. You'll not only become more productive, you might even find yourself having more fun.

Can't remember the last time you left your comfort zone? By striking out and doing things differently, you'll be less judgmental of other risk takers because you'll have the bruises of trying to make change yourself.

If we all vote to do nothing, there is no way to change the cynicism and negativity that many of us face each day at work. Vote yes on making work a better place and you'll find many other people ready to follow your efforts.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: What best describes your attitude at work?

—Not cynical enough, 18.8 percent

—Not cynical, 22.3 percent

—Cynical, 58.7 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Lessons from the chocolate factory

Working Mom
Gina Abuyuan

I'VE always loved the story of Charlie Bucket and his run-down family, how he came to know Willy Wonka, and the adventures they take in Wonka's glass elevator. There's not a year that passes that I re-read those two books ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," and "Charlie and The Great Glass Elevator," as well as a motley other stories by Roald Dahl). There's also not a year that my cousins and I reminisce about watching the 1971 version when we were little, and copying Gene Wilder sing, "Come with me, and you'll see, a world of pure imagination..."

Like all good stories go, there's always something new to see and think about Wonka and Charlie, depending on what stage of life you're in when you encounter them once more. Here are a few things I picked up from Charlie-the-movie, and what I would like my daughter to remember:

When people give you negative criticism about what you do, tell them they're mumbling and that you can't understand a word they're saying. It works for Wonka, at least, when Mike Teavee, the video game-addled little freak tells Wonka that he's stupid for doing nothing but think of chocolate. "You'll have to speak more clearly, you're mumbling and it's really bumming me," the candy genius tells the little boy, who gets zapped into a TV set and has to be taken to the taffy stretcher to return to, er, normal size.

Don't sell your Golden Ticket. When Charlie finds the fifth Golden Ticket, but later suggests that he sell it to help his family out of poverty, Grandpa Joe pulls him aside and tells him: "There's money being printed out there everyday. But there are only five Golden Tickets ever printed. Are you going to be a dumb-dumb and give up your one Golden Ticket?" The rarer the blessing, the bigger the returns.

Having fun is having fun—it doesn't have to be profound. Hours after watching the movie, back home, Simone and I are blowing bubblegum bubbles for Marco and Mateo, who giggle and chortle with amazement. They squeal when Simone brings her bubble close to their faces; their little hands are under our chins, coaxing us to blow them one more, one more! It's not "getting lost in the moment"—it's living in the moment, in every second, letting their laughter seep through your very cells. I want my children to learn to enjoy happy moments this way, whether with their future partners or with their own children—wholly, uncomplicatedly. "It's candy, it doesn't have to make sense," says Charlie sagely, to counter Violet (or was it Veruca's?) attempt at dissecting sweets.

Sometimes, you just have to see life like that if you want to survive. Life is good, life is sweet. Life is a bucketful of candy. There are jawbreakers and cough drops in there, sure, but there's lot of deluxe chocolates and truffles loaded with fire whisky too.

(Gina Abuyuan 'is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. Get your copy of the August issue now, with Carmina Villaroel and her twins, Mavy and Cassy, on the cover. Feedback is welcome at gina_abuyuan@abs.pinoycentral.com)

Learn to delegate

From page B8

It is quite liberating once you really do let go and put your trust in other people. So don't ruin it by being a control freak! Remember, before delegating the job, you decided that this was not your area of expertise. You know what I mean—the feeling that nobody else could do it as well as you—even though you don't know how to. If you know that you have controlling tendencies, you must learn to be a good client and give your partner all the information they need to do the job in line with your expectations.

For example, your accountant needs certain facts to achieve the task of budgeting and forecasting cash flow for your business. You need to supply him or her with the necessary information to get the job done. You must understand the process and know what you need the outcome to be. You must also communicate these objectives clearly and monitor their progress (but not so often that they wish they never met you). Set meeting times for updates and a timeline for completion.

The key is to identify good people, enlist them in your cause or business, give them the ball, and then allow them to run with it.

Do not over delegate. Excessive delegating can lead to disaster. A complete hands-off approach is abdicating your business responsibility. Let's take the example of your relationship with your accountant. Not being a CPA is no excuse for not understanding the budget of your company. You must understand how the budget works and be accountable for it. You must also be able to communicate this information to the relevant people in your business.

Most important, you must understand how the critical pieces of your business fit together to form the whole so you can make sound and effective business decisions. Should you not understand these processes, you run the risk of losing control.

One last note: It is nice to want to do all the work yourself. For one thing, on the surface, it appears that it will save you money. However, time is also money and your time has a value. In today's world, being a "jack of all trades" is more likely to mean that you do a lot of things "averagely."

If you understand your individual strengths and establish strong trusting partnerships to complement these, then your business has experts working for it in all areas. And that knowledge is comforting.

(Megan Tough, leadership and business coach, works with executives, managers and business owners to develop their skills as leaders and effectiveness as business people. To learn more, visit www.megantough.com.)

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ROYAL BRUNEI

Prep students long for hybrid cars

This early, our future motorists are thinking like responsible adult citizens

By Tessa R. Salazar

THEY look at everything with wide-eyed enthusiasm. And their intentions are not only pure but environmentally sound as well.

Six- to eight-year-old students of Mulberry Hills in Pamplona may not yet understand the "economics of oil" and barely feel the pinch of soaring fuel prices, but they know the solution—or at least part of it. When these children entered the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Manila last Friday, they pointed to an object they wish they could ride on and their parents would buy for them.

That, or they were just plain impressed with the look of a blue Fine-N fuel-cell hybrid concept car.

Toyota's hybrid four-wheel-drive vehicle was flown directly from Japan along with the Panasonic Toyota Formula One Racing Team TF-104 replica.

The fuel cell hybrid was first shown on exhibit during the 37th Tokyo Motorshow in October 2003.

Young motorshow guests

A few weeks ago, school directress Cecilia Javier saw a Readers Digest ad about a Toyota dream car art contest urging students to join. When she told her students about it, they started drawing their dream cars, and Javier decided to bring them to the motorshow to give them an idea of what a concept car would look like.

"Compared to my futuristic car design, I find Toyota's Fine-N model cool and nice and just like my car, it is not harmful to the environment," said 6-year-old Filipino-Irish Alex Baldwin.

"The Fine-N is a very beautiful car and the car parts and the wheels are not like the ordinary cars. I was amazed to find out it had a different way of steering!" said Gildo D. Retorta, 8.

Hundreds of students from other technical schools like Mapua, University of Makati, Matute Institute, Feati University and Don Bosco trooped to the WTCMM for an automotive field trip that included facility tours and hybrid engine technology lectures from Toyota's technical instructors.

A total of 14,814 visitors went to the 8-day Toyota Motorshow (excluding students and business customers), which occupied 2,700 square meters of the WTCMM.

Popular corner

Portions of the Exhibit Hall A looked much like gadgets-and-how-to website howstuffworks.com, with actual hybrid and common rail diesel (CRD) engines on display. But unlike howstuffworks.com, the objects were real, "touchable" and interactive.

The engine corner—near the F1 display—was a favorite for Toyota vehicle owners and students. Here, visitors freely asked various questions about their Toyotas to the technical people at hand.

TMPC corporate communications head Ariel de Jesus was pleasantly surprised about the popularity of the engine corner. "People are becoming more meticulous about engine size, the power-to-weight ratio and fuel efficiencies. We were able to have the opportunity to clearly answer their questions minus the 'intimidating' look other showrooms have," he said.

How electric motors work

At the exhibit, TMPC technical instructor Apolinar R. Rampola could be seen explaining to newly arrived visitors how the gasoline engine and the electric motor were combined to produce a hybrid engine.

His explanation was simple. When starting the vehicle, the electric motor would work. At a certain speed—approximately from 0 to 35 kilometer per hour—the electric motor would power the vehicle. But at speeds exceeding 35 kph, the power source shifts from the electric motor to the gasoline engine.

All the while, the children, their gaze transfixed on the engine and the concept car, nodded at Rampola in agreement.

For Macky

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

FIRST of all, I am delighted, nay ecstatic, that you find time in your toxic schedule to pay particular attention to my writing. Your predicament is clear to me and I concede that your issues need to be answered. Reviewing all other shape and manner of motors and motoring can wait. Fuel conservation is something that we all have to live with in these difficult times and given your situation, as a student and a young motorist, the issue is easily more grim.

Given the gasoline advertising wars that went on in the first half of the year, between Petron and Shell, I clearly understand why your initial question involved the choice between these two products. So, to echo a question asked by so many, "Which fuel brand is better?" Sadly, your very direct line of questioning cannot be answered in an equally clear and concise manner.

Bear with me on this one and let us allow the Adboard decision speak for itself. Oh, you haven't noticed that the Shell "my-gas-is-better-than-yours" media blitz has been absent from our tri-media consciousness? In all fairness, that decision was probably based on the claims made by the advertisement and the methods that were used to substantiate said claims—not because their product was flawed.

Can I surmise that you appreciate where this argument is headed? Let's just say that given the same methods and control of variables, we would still have two ongoing media campaigns for gasoline products with seemingly extraordinary fuel claims. Under such "common circumstances," I would go out on a limb say that the results would be eerily close.

Fuel quality

You are right, though, to initially focus on gasoline. Fuel quality does play a significant role in the fuel-efficiency and monetary-savings equation. Yet, this search for quality is not primarily a brand issue, where one fuel is empirically better than the other. This is as, even in stations of the same brand, the conditions of storing and dispensing fuel are a cause for variances in the quality of what consumers put in their tanks.

Logically, better maintained stations with DTI/DOE(?) calibrated pumps are a first step in the figuring out where to load up. In the real world though, given the propensity for human beings to find loopholes and "creative" methods to increase their earnings, we must sadly rely on a "trial and error" system of investigation.

Meticulously observe and log the effect of a fuel load, a "sample" if you wish, on your mileage and performance. Contaminated fuel not only will reduce the efficiency of an engine dramatically but also will give you a feeling that your car is just not performing up to par. Acceleration will be sluggish and idle will be less than smooth; no feline purr when at rest in traffic.

Car maintenance

This leads to the second factor that will save your gas money: your car's maintenance. There are two critical points in this category. One, you can blame the previously mentioned symptoms on tainted fuel, if and only if, your car is kept in perfect running order. It is a simple case of eliminating possible variables.

The other, is that an engine long overdue for an infusion of oil and basic filter replacement cannot be expected to display any sort of refinement or mechanical efficiency. In an ill-maintained engine, combusted fuel is not completely translated into energy that is used to propel your car. Unwanted heat, noise and vibration are possible clues to an ailing powerplant under the hood.

Car type

The next item to assess is the car itself. I hope that you do not drive some V8 powered SUV to school, as I'd ask you to return this vehicle to whomever "benevolently" gave you the keys to this car: Elephants don't get whiter than cars with big engines. In all probability though, you are commuting in a current model, small displacement, four-cylinder sedan with an automatic transmission. This is a much better situation to be in, but is in no means the perfect vehicular answer for your need to conserve fuel and save money. You have to go smaller to get dramatically larger savings in fuel.

The new crop of small displacement engines mated to a lightweight body is the way to go. The manufacturers who've entered the super-mini segment (tiny cars with usually less than 1300cc in displacement), have put these products out in the Philippine market, specifically for your motoring profile. Most are austere with gasoline while being amusing drive; cuteness is also endemic to this segment, so your girlfriend most likely won't mind the smaller car.

The way you drive

Poetically, the query that began with your dilemma ends with, and is ultimately in, your hands—aided in no small part by the discipline of your feet. Even if your situation changed tomorrow and you miraculously had all the factors earlier mentioned, fuel efficiency boils down to the manner in which you motor.

Tread lightly while at the driver's controls of any car. Smooth pedal work, particularly with the accelerator will do wonders for both your consumption and wallet. Momentum is your friend, so anticipate the behavior of traffic around you; work with it and not against it. Travel at a constant speed as much as you can; remember that the keyword to a fuel-efficient commute is flow.

As you begin to address all the pertaining issues, I have no doubt that you will start to see better fuel consumption. Give this serious issue a little more critical thought and action; painstakingly maintain your vehicle, choose the right car, if possible, and prove patient despite the prevailing Philippine driving conditions. The savings will then begin and you'll surely have more cash for whatever it is that twenty-something law students spend on these days. I'm certain the idea of more acetate bound, digital photocopies is already tickling you pink.

Adorable Alterra; tricycle reaction

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I MUST admit owning an Isuzu Alterra would be the best thing that will ever happen to an Isuzu diehard. And that's including Ricky Sadiwa (Malaya's love of her life), who has not stopped loving any new Isuzu model that rolls out of the assembly lines since he bought his first Isuzu pickup almost a decade ago.

The Alterra is no exception.

For one, the Alterra has revolutionized the entire outlook of an Isuzu vehicle from a mere diesel machine that is thoroughly fuel efficient to a happy confluence of state-of-the-art features that, honestly, took me by surprise.

For another, the Alterra is a totally different automotive concoction in that it has become a tough rival of its chief opponents, if only because of its head-turner looks, overly comfortable ride and gas-miser attributes.

Wow, you are right Ronald "Isuzu Joe" Baladad. The Alterra has redefined the art of diesel technology vis-à-vis the demanding challenges of SUV levels.

Yes, those who bought Alterras because they couldn't wait for that extra long queue on the Fortuner are now triumphantly saying, "No regrets. We made the right move!"

Congratulations to that enduring Isuzu triumvirate for Isuzu's latest success: Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales and Timmy Naval.

* * *

My piece last week on the road menace that is the tricycle has elicited a lot of reaction. I print one of them—from Rob Dix, the owner of Chix Unlimited, the biggest hatchery in Pangasinan.

"Dear Al,

"Congrats on your 'tricycle' column last Aug. 10.

"Regarding tricycles on the highways—I call them 'Mindless Devils'—Tarlac must be the worst place for this menace.

"Anyway, what can we expect? The governor of Tarlac is always absent.

"The mayor of Tarlac does nothing except dig the roads to install drains that apparently go nowhere as the floods just keep getting worse, and his city's tricycle population grows without any regard to road safety.

"On my way home one time to Pangasinan, it took me 45 minutes to navigate the short stretch of road from the Siesta Lodge junction to McDonald's; the reason the whole road got clogged with tricycles was there was no traffic enforcer in sight.

"Another tricycle madness you will see is when you pass by the Capas High School in the afternoon, when the students are leaving school. As you know, this school is situated along the one and only national highway going North!

"The tricycles and jeepneys are there always competing for passengers under the 'watchful eyes' of 2 or 3 PNP officers always smoking cigarettes.

"The tricycles would take off, loaded with at least 10 students sitting even on the top of the sidecar and clinging to the back. Bizarrely, they race against each other, overtaking even trucks at times.

"Several times, I have passed by and shouted at the PNP officers but to no avail, continuing to turn a blind eye while puffing their cigarettes.

"Apart from the dangers posed by the tricycles, they are the No. 1 cause in building up traffic on the highways.

"Big, speeding buses are in the highways and to allow tricycles in the highways invites risks of abominable proportions.

"And the pollution they cause! Those 2-stroke engines that tricycles use here are banned in Indonesia! All it takes is a political will to do away with this 'road menace.' But it seems this lousy government has no 'will' at all!

"You are right. 'It sucks.'"

* * *

QUOTE ME. Sadly, tricycles are here to stay because politicians can't win elections without them.

Burn fuel without burning your money

CONSERVING gasoline has become the prime mover in battling the global oil crisis. In times of grave difficulties such as this, it would do well for disgruntled consumers to heed the following helpful tips from Honda Cars Philippines to minimize fuel consumption.

40 KPH
START SLOW

- **Change your driving habits.** As much as possible, consolidate daily trips and errands. Unnecessary trips will not only waste fuel but time as well.
- **Keep your cool.** Accelerate smoothly and be gentle on the gas pedal. High revolutions guzzle up gas. City driving requires only 1,500 to 3,000 revolutions per minute (rpm). For manual transmissions, shift slightly earlier to keep rpm down.
- **Avoid sudden accelerations.** Ideally, keep your speed constant. This minimizes the need to brake and gain speed. Anticipate traffic patterns by looking far ahead and adjust your speed gradually.
- **Take the load off your engine during idle situations.** Excessive idling is unavoidable especially during rush hours. You can take the load off your engine by placing the gear into neutral position when your car is idling or at a standstill. This reduces strain on the transmission. However, if you are anticipating a lengthy wait, simply turn off the engine.
- **Check your tires.** Underinflated tires or poorly aligned wheels force the engine to work harder, thereby increasing fuel consumption. Rolling resistance increases when tires are under-inflated. Misaligned wheels wear out tires even faster.
- **Use windows and air-conditioning wisely.** Open windows at highway speeds increase air drag thereby requiring more energy. If possible, avoid using air condition in heavy, stop-and-go traffic situations. That is, if the air is safe, unpolluted and the weather is not annoyingly hot. Set air-con setting to comfortable minimum setting during morning and evening drive.
- **Observe proper preventive maintenance procedures.** A well-maintained engine functions properly and helps maximize your gas mileage. Misfiring spark plugs and malfunctioning fuel system greatly affects fuel consumption.
- **Gas up wisely.** Gas up during the coolest time of the day, either early morning or late evening. When the temperature is low, the gasoline, like any other liquid, has higher density. It will then expand when the temperature is high. Don't fill the fuel tank to the brim to allow space for expansion, avoiding spillage and wastage.
- **Check your load.** Clean your car and don't carry unnecessary load. Maintaining full tank level regularly only lets you drive around with unnecessary weight in your car. Simply fill your tank when it's only 3/4 empty.

These fuel conservation tips not only save gas but also help extend the life of the vehicle. Fortunately, advanced technologies in fuel consumption are also readily available to maximize every peso we spend on transport costs.

Fuel economy event

The last Honda-Petron Amazing Fuel Eco-Run, a fuel economy event to drum up awareness in efficient driving techniques in the face of spiraling fuel costs, yielded unbelievable results in fuel conservation.

Using the Intelligent Dual and Sequential Ignition or I-DSI engine currently carried by the Honda City and the Honda Jazz, participants were surprised at their gas savings at the end of the race. For instance, one of the racers revealed a 65.3-kilometer reading consumed only 1.82 liters of fuel.

The I-DSI uses two spark plugs per cylinder and acts as a thinking engine. It responds to different driving conditions, allowing it to get the most out of every gram of fuel we put in. The result is better mileage for our car since the I-DSI's effective fuel combustion assures us that our hard-earned gas money does not burn with it.

Desperately saving fuel

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE SPIKE in petroleum prices has generated some quaint ideas from government leaders about reducing oil consumption. The goal is to wean the Philippines from total dependence on imported fossil fuels. We consume 126 million barrels of oil a year or 345,000 barrels a day, according to figures from the Department of Energy (DoE.)

Foremost among the fuel-saving ideas is the exhortation for people to ride bicycles instead of motor vehicles, as if the Metro Manila Development Authority's number-coding scheme does not already deprive motorists of the right to use their cars.

The MMDA's proposal to create bike lanes in the cities and towns comprising Metro Manila got mixed reactions from the mayors. Since many parts of the metro have narrow streets and hardly any sidewalks, there is no space for bike lanes. The best comment came from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who noted that we are going backward. Atienza said that China, where the bicycle used to be the primary mode of transportation, has already banned bicycles from urban centers. Building a safe, efficient public transportation system is the only way to reduce private car use, Atienza said.

By example

The question is: If all of us will pedal to work or to school under the hot sun or pouring rain, arriving all grimy and sweaty at our destinations since Metro Manila is one of the hottest and most polluted cities in the world, what about leadership by example? Last Friday, a group called the Alliance of Students Tired of Gloria (Astig) challenged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials to lead by example by stepping out of the comfort of their air-conditioned cars and riding bicycles. "Take a taste of what you want us to suffer," Astig dared GMA.

In fairness, however, GMA has ordered the Presidential Security Command to trim the number of vehicles in her entourage to save on fuel. GMA also told the oil companies to cut the operating hours of their stations from 24 to 20 a day. As for GMA bicycling to her appointments outside the Palace, that would not only be a security nightmare, it would also demean the office of the President of the Republic.

While I do not necessarily support the political views of Astig, I do agree with them that government officials should feel the stress of daily commuting by stepping out of their air-conditioned cars—even if only now and then. Many government-issued vehicles, by the way, are gas-guzzling SUVs and big luxury cars with engine displacements of six to eight cylinders. If the government is sincere about energy conservation, these gas-guzzlers should be sold and the proceeds used to buy small, fuel-efficient diesel-fed vehicles for official use.

Coco-diesel mandate

Speaking of diesel, the Palace is reportedly mulling, apart from the Bio-Ethanol bill, a law to mandate the use of coco-methyl-ester (CME) as a blend in diesel fuel. The DoE's coco-diesel or CME program projects foreign exchange savings of P1.2 billion a year if all diesel-fed vehicles use one percent CME blend diesel fuel. Higher forex savings of up to P6 billion a year are estimated if 5 percent of imported diesel fuel is displaced by locally produced coco-diesel.

The proposed CME law may be patterned after the memorandum circular in 2004 that required all diesel-fed government vehicles to use coco-diesel. The DoE claims that the use of one percent CME blend diesel fuel in the vehicles of 28 complying government agencies last year displaced 30,261 liters of imported diesel and saved about P832,000 in foreign exchange.

Only one

Citing field tests conducted by the Philippine Coconut Authority, the DoE says that coco-diesel increases mileage by 1 to 2 km per liter aside from reducing emission levels. But as of now, only one oil company—Flying V—sells Envirotek Biodiesel Premium at five of its stations at a price slightly higher than ordinary diesel. Oil majors Petron, Shell and Caltex are wary about CME since no technical tests on coco-diesel have been made directly involving them. Moreover, there is no infrastructure—pipelines and storage facilities—for the bulk utilization of CME.

Meanwhile, owners of vehicles powered by common rail direct injection (CRDi) turbo intercooler diesel engines may have questions. The DoE asserts that diesel engines do not need modification to use coco-diesel, but is this true of the latest diesel engine technology? Tests should be conducted by independent experts to see if coco-diesel can damage the fuel system and cause performance problems in CRDi diesel engines.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Karaoke bars combine two of the nation's greatest evils: people who shouldn't drink with people who shouldn't sing.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Kymco introduces big scooter model

By Charles E. Buban

TAIWAN-BASED motorcycle manufacturer Kymco recently gave a sneak peek of its Xciting 500 at the headquarters of its local subsidiary in Parañaque, Metro Manila. SC Kymco Pilipinas will soon be marketing the really big scooter model.

This 500-cc, 4-stroke double overhead cam two-wheeler promises to deliver excellent cruising speed and plenty of passing power while its continuous variable transmission assures stepless acceleration from a stand still all the way up to cruising speed.

Its 15-inch front and 14-inch rear tires, adjustable hydraulic rear shocks and telescopic front forks guarantee to smooth out the bumps.

The Xciting 500 offers its rider a multifunctional instrument panel. The hooded panel features three round dials for a 10,000-rpm tachometer, a 180-kph (kilometer-per-hour) speedometer and fuel and coolant gauges, with a digital clock and ample warning indicators.

Convenient features offered by Xciting 500 include a combination ignition key and steering lock that also unlocks the seat to access the underseat compartment and a fuel filler located at the front compartment [so the rider need not dismount and open the seat when filling up at a gas station].

A mobile phone holder with a power socket can be found in the underseat storage along with enough space to hold an open-faced helmet and other small items.

Kymco also reveals that the Xciting 500 is the first maxi scooter to feature a parking brake for parking safety and convenience.

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Hyundai Ranking Catapults in J.D. Power and Associates Studies

Hyundai improved dramatically in the 2005 J.D. Power and Associates Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) with an industry-leading reduction in problems reported by owners. Problems per 100 Hyundai vehicles declined by 115, or 31%, moving up 12 places in the nameplate rankings.

"Hyundai has dedicated itself to quality over the past several years, and the Vehicle Dependability Study ranking demonstrates the strides that we've made", said Bob Cosmai, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor America. "We understand that quality is the number-one priority for consumers, and we've responded with constantly improving initial quality rankings and now dramatic improvements in long-term dependability".

The Hyundai Sonata was also recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as one of the top three vehicles in dependability in the Entry Midsize Car category. The Sonata earned top honors in the 2004 J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Study (IQS), ranking highest in its segment. Sonata's success in both the IQS and VDS over the past two years illustrates the correlation between short and long term qualities.

The VDS study measures problem symptoms of three-year-old vehicles, primarily in categories such as ride, handling and breaking, features and controls, engine, transmission and vehicle exterior. The VDS in one of the three J.D. Power and Associates quality metrics, along with the Initial Quality Study (IQS), which measures quality after 90 days of ownership, and the Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study, which measures customer perception on the design, content, layout and performance of their new vehicles.

Hyundai improved its position in the 2005 J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Study released in April with the third-highest non-luxury brand ranking in the industry - up from fourth in 2004. Significantly, Hyundai's all-new compact SUV, the 2005 Tucson, scored impressively in its first year of production, receiving praise from J.D. Power and Associates as the highest quality all-new model launched in the industry in 2005.

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The Fourth Generation Sonata was recognized in 2004 as the Highest Ranked Entry-level Midsize Car by the J.D. Power & Associates Initial Quality Study.

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LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
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E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 644-2005
08 August 2005

TO : All Regional Directors, Assistant Directors, Head of Operations Division, Cashiers and Employees Concerned
Regional Office No. I - San Fernando, La Union
Regional Office No. IV-A - Lipa City, Batangas
Regional Office No. V - Legaspi City
Regional Office No. VIII - Tacloban City
Regional Office No. X - Cagayan de Oro City
Regional Office CAR - Baguio City
Regional Office NCR - Pasig City

SUBJECT : **COLLECTION OF COMPUTER FEES FOR MAIDRS**

Upon the successful completion of the functional and operational testing, Certificates of Acceptance of an IT Facility (CAIFs) were issued for the Manufacturers, Assemblers, Importers and Dealers Reporting System (MAIDRS) modules in the attached schedule at the sites and on the dates stated.

Accordingly, pursuant to the LTO Information Technology Project Build-Own-Operate Agreement and the User Acceptance Test (UAT) Plan, you are hereby directed to commence collection of computer for the issuance of Certificate of Stock Reported (CSR) for the following modules applicable to your respective sites as follows:

	Computer Fee	VAT	Total
1. Stock Reporting			
• CBU	P120.00	P 12.00	P132.00
• Surplus	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00
2. Special Reporting			
• Undocumented MV/MC	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00
• Rebuilt (Backyard)	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00
• Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect after publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

Region	Site	Module
Region I	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region IV-A	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region V	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region VIII	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region X	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region NCR	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)
Region CAR	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus Special Reporting • Undocumented MV/MC • Rebuilt (Backyard) • Imported Rebuilt (Chop Chop)

(PDI - Aug. 24, 2005)

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- 1 UNIT V-RIPPER – 150 T
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Extrajudicial Settlement of the estate of the late ARCADIO DE GUIA per Doc. No. 319; Page No. 65; Book No. VII; Series of 2005 per Notary Public Domingo G. Losa of Paranaque City
(PDI-Aug. 17, 24 & 31, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ESPERANZA SUMULONG was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc No. 225, Page No. 135, Book No. 3, Series of 2005 under Notary Public Hernand Gutierrez.
(PDI-Aug. 17, & 24, 31 '05)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEGUNDO SOLOMON & ESTER DEL MONTE has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc #628, Page 128, Book XI, Series of 2005 before notary public Marcial Pe Benito of manila.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31, & Sept. 7, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Lost Passport HH665699 Issued to FLORDELIZA ANTONIO (PDI-Aug. 24.2005)

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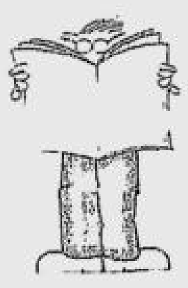

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

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Pag-IBIG Fund
Cagayan de Oro Regional Office
Jo Filmor Building
Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE PAG-IBIG FUND CAGAYAN DE ORO REGIONAL OFFICE BUILDING

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works (BAC-CW) intends to apply the sum of P 67,702,013.07 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction Works at the Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction Works at the Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office Building. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before 5:00 p.m. of September 7, 2005 to the BAC-CW Secretariat at Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office, Jo Filmor Building, Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The BAC-CW Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the Pag-IBIG Fund Cashier. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 1:30 p.m. of September 13, 2005 at Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office, Unit 9, Jo Filmor Building, Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 22-26, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-CW Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 5:00 p.m. of September 26, 2005.

The Pag-IBIG Fund will hold a Pre-Bid Conference (for eligibility) at 10:00 a.m. of September 1, 2005 and another Pre-bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 10:00 a.m. of Septemer 27, 2005 at the following address; Pag-IBIG Fund, Cagayan de Oro Regional Office, Joe Filmor Building, Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office, Joe Filmor Building, Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City on or before October 26, 2005, 1:30 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on the same date and time at Pag-IBIG Fund Cagayan de Oro Regional Office, Joe Filmor Building, Mortola, Cagayan de Oro City.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

JAIME A. FABIAÑA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee-Civil Works

(PDI - Aug. 18 & 24, 2005)

POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid in the Second Round of Bidding for the privatization of the following:

Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries and Accessories of the Bataan Thermal Plant located at Limay, Bataan

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being sold on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 500.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 31, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from August 22, 2005 until August 31, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : August 26 – September 28, 2005
Pre-bid Conference : September 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM : September 30, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

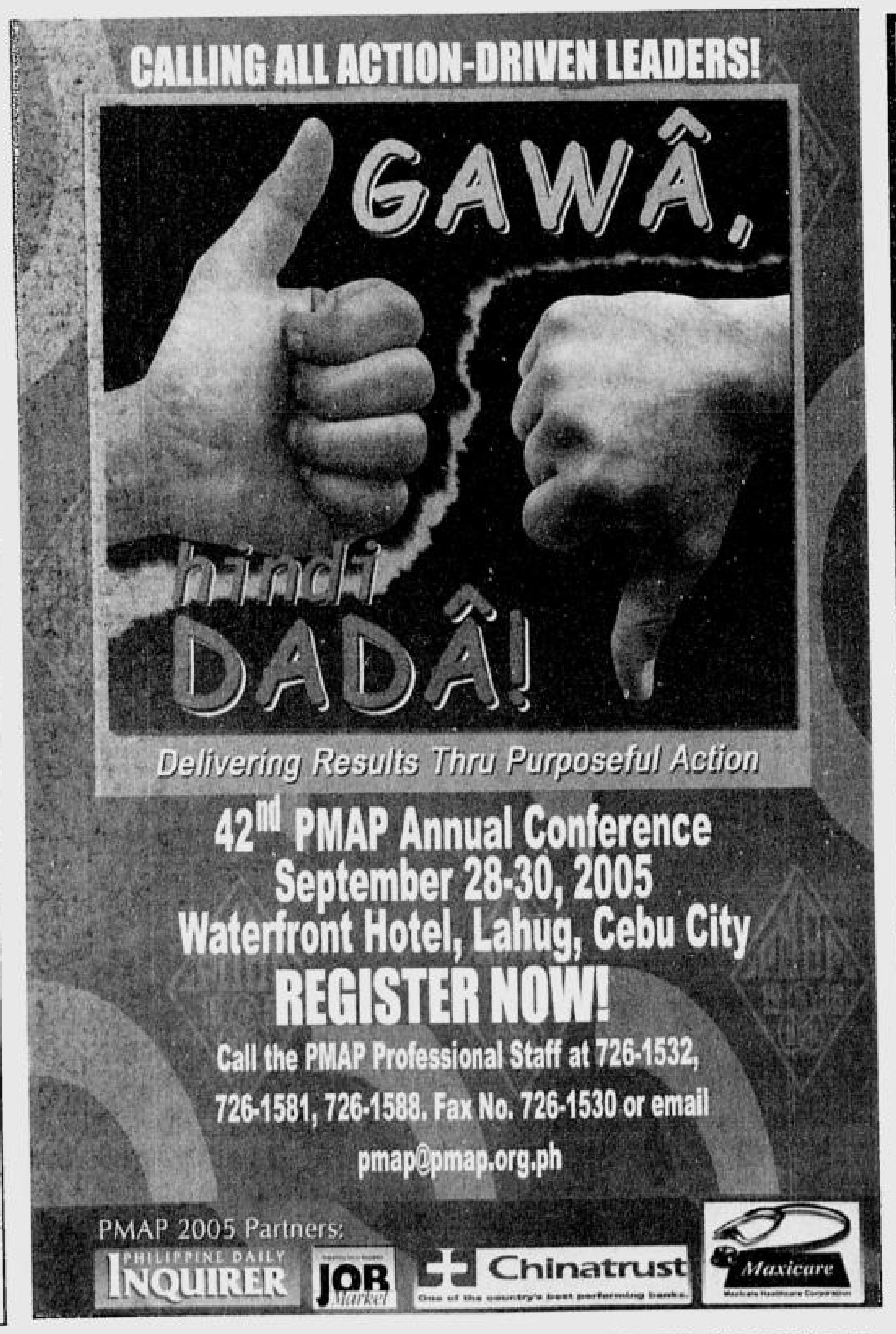
Interested parties will be required to post a bid security in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit. The details of the bid security, including the amount are contained in the bidding procedures. The winning bidder must substitute its bid security with a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Other details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **RAPHAEL PERPETUO M. LOTILLA**
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 22, 23 & 24, 2005)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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY JANITORIAL SERVICES

Contract No.: ADB/OAS-2005/042

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites companies to apply for prequalification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of janitorial services at ADB's Headquarters facilities which include among others, offices, function rooms, auditorium, facilities block, gas station, guardhouses, canopies, other areas under covered roof in the Headquarters, official residence of ADB President (hereinafter referred to as "the Services").
2. It is expected that the Invitation for Bid for the bidding exercise will be issued no later than the third quarter of 2005.
3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible members of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from **9:00 a.m.** to **4:00 p.m.**
5. The Prequalification Document may be obtained from the Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **23 August to 5 September 2005** on any working day, **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
6. Three copies (marked "Original", "Copy 1" and "Copy 2") of the applications should be submitted each in a sealed envelope marked **"Application to Prequalify for Janitorial Services,"** addressed to the attention of **"Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services,"** and should reach ADB not later than **3:00 p.m.** on **21 September 2005**. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
7. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the result of their applications. All prequalified applicants will be contacted and issued the Bidding Document.
8. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification document shall be borne solely by the applicant.

CECILE L. H. F. GREGORY
Director
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ADB

(PDI--Aug. 23 & 24, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-242	600 units Personal Computers	P 25,800,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **September 14, 2005 at 1:00 PM** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **September 1, 2005, 10:00 AM,** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - Aug. 24 & 31, 2005)

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Career & Guidance Counseling Fair and Exhibit set on September 15 and 16 at the PhilTrade Roxas Boulevard. Career Development Association of the Philippines (CDAP) signed an agreement with International Education Specialist to network and join forces to help students, parents and professionals in their career decisions. The 28th CDAP Annual Convention will be held on September 13 & 14 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City. The Career Fair and Exhibit is on its 17th year and coincides with Inter Ed's 25th Anniversary. The Memorandum of Agreement was inked at Tower Club recently with Inter-Ed president Roger D. Bartholomew (far left), Inter-Ed founder Helen U. Bartholomew, CDAP president Dr. Conchita Umali and CDAP secretary Leticia De La Paz (far right). For inquiries, CDAP/Inter-Ed Secretariat is located at the 2/F Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. De La Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or call 819-1001.

FERNANDEZ AND DAVAO VISITED KSK BOOTH IN WOFEX

KSK FOOD Products, one of the exhibitors in the recently held World Food Expo 2005 (Wofex) was visited by action star Rudy Fernandez and versatile actor Ricky Davao. KSK manufactures products such as 'Boy Bawang,' 'Cowboy' Chili Cheese Flavored Cornock, 'Chili' Garlic Flavored Cornick. Wofex is tagged as the leading food trade show in the country. A very successful Wofex gathered over 40,000 visitors, with over 700 exhibitors and over 10,000 product display. Shown are the staff of KSK together with Fernandez (4th from the left) and Davao(2nd from the right). Wofex 2006 will be held on Aug. 2 to 5, World Trade Center. For information, call Premier Events Plus Inc. at 9297993 or 63, 4354790 or email info@PEPGroup.com.

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In Loving Memory

Carmen Enriquez Alfaro vda. de Quebral

August 10, 1908 – August 19, 2005

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be,
so he put His arms around you and whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away,
and although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Her beloved daughter, **Wilhelmina**, and husband, **Antonio Angel**, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. Interment will be on Friday, August 26, 2005 at the Forest Lake Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass at the St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Church, Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

MOIRA VANIA B. YARR

December 7, 1987 - August 22, 2005

She is survived by her parents **Bob Yarr** and **Gina Bautista** and sister **Fiona**.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in San Vicente, Pacol Nabua, Camarines Sur.

Her remains will then be flown from Naga on August 26, 2005 and will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park Cemetery.

Nanay we want you to know that
we are all together loving you.
So Sadly Missed and Lovingly Remembered
on her Twentieth Death Anniversary

PURIFICACION CONJARES DE JESUS

(Lucena City)
BEST MOTHER
June 11, 1911 – August 24, 1985

Her children: LILIA & BENHUR, CLODUALDO & CAROLINA, MA. TERESA & RICARDO, grandchildren: NINGNING & ALFRED, CLAUDE & OLIVE, TOTI, OLIVER, LORALIE & FLORIO and great grandchildren: MICKEY, MARTY and REDD, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Masses will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church at Cordillera St., Q.C. and Holy Redeemer Church at 6:00 A.M.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
National Electrification Commission

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF FRANCHISE TO OPERATE AN ELECTRIC LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BAYUGAN, PROSPERIDAD, SAN FRANCISCO, ROSARIO, BUNAWAN, VERUELA, TRENTO, ESPERANZA, LA PAZ, LORETO, STA JOSEFA, SAN LUIS; TALACOGON AND SIBAGAT, ALL IN PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR

NEC CASE NO. 2005-09

AGUSAN DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
[illegible] Applicant
x-------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an electric cooperative duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines, requests that it be granted a renewal of franchise pursuant to NEC Resolution No. 93, dated September 24, 1980, to operate electric light, heat and power system in the Municipalities of Bayugan, Prosperidad, San Francisco, Rosario, Bunawan, Veruela, Trento, Esperanza, La Paz, Loreto, Sta Josefa, San Luis, Talacogon and Sibagat, all in the Province of Agusan del Sur.

This application will be heard by this Commission on September 9, 2005, Friday at 10:00 in the morning at the Board Room of ASELCO at which hearing. Applicant will present evidence of its capabilities, financially technically and institutionally to operate electric light, and power service in the area applied for.

At least ten (10) days prior to date of hearing, Applicant shall publish this Notice of Hearing once in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Applicant shall submit at the hearing proofs of compliance with these requirements: Affidavits of the editors or business managers of the newspapers in which this notice of hearing was published, together with complete copies of the issues of the newspapers.

The applicant is also hereby directed to post this Notice of Hearing in the Municipalities of Bayugan, Prosperidad, San Francisco, Rosario, Luis, Talacogon and Sibagat, all in the Province of Agusan del Sur, as well as in ASELCO headquarters and sub-offices ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition with the Commission at least five (5) days before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the Applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any person affected to file his or her opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of his or her rights to be heard and the Commission will proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

Given this August 11, 2005, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

By the Authority of the Commission:
(Sgd.) ATTY. GOLDELIO G. RIVERA, CPA
Director, Management Assistance Group
and NEC Office / Hearing Office

Noted by:
(Sgd). ATTY. JOHN JOSEPH M. MAGTULOY, CPA
Deputy Administrator for Legal Services

(PDI – August 24, 2005)

De La Salle University
Manila
College of Science

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

A. De La Salle University - Manila hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the bidding to supply, deliver, install and commission:

One (1) Unit of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer

B. A list of the required technical specifications can be obtained from the Chemistry Department, DLSU, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila, Tel. No. 524-4611 loc. 430; Telefax: 536-0230.

NOTE: Only pre-qualified bidders will be issued the invitation to bid documents and be allowed to participate in the bidding. Only exclusive distributors, authorized resellers/dealers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

C. Deadline for submission: September 9, 2005.

D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

E. De La Salle University reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the university.

F. For further particulars, please inquire from the Laboratory Supervisor, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address.

*** Funding for the acquisition of this instrument is part of the Commission on Higher Education's Development Support for Centers of Excellence in Science and Mathematics.**

(Sgd.) Mrs. Julita C. Robles
Laboratory Supervisor

(PDI – August 24, 2005)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contracts:

General
Title : Road Improvement Projects (Asphalting), Phase 3
Scope : Items of work include, but not limited to, asphalting, line ditching, cross drainage & slope protection
Particulars

Package	ABC (PhP)	Duration (c.d.)	PCAB Category ARCC-based	Location	Plans and Bid Documents (PhP)
1	36,767,138.77	90	Medium A	1st district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
2	82,397,560.91	150	Medium B	2nd district, Mainland Cebu	20,000.00
3	38,108,846.92	100	Medium A	3rd district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
4	47,498,095.96	110	Medium A	4th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
5	32,027,096.73	90	Medium A	5th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000.00
6	28,128,845.76	90	Medium A	4th district, Bantayan Island	10,000.00
7	35,074,414.96	100	Medium A	5th district, Camotes Island	10,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the ABC per package, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening and in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Submission of Eligibility Documents/Statements and Screening, Bid and Performance Securities, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract, shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

	BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 24-31, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 24-31, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 02, 2005
4.	Notice of Eligibility Check Results	September 13, 2005
5.	Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents	September 16, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	September 19, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 10, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent stating and specifying therein which Package/s they intend to undertake, and payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) for each Package to the Cash Division. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA who are found to be eligible to bid, upon payment to the Cash Division of a non-refundable amount as above-stated.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman BAC-INFRA

(PDI – August 24 & 31, 2005)

Master Dance teacher, Teresa Randall conducts dance workshops

IN Photo Teresa Randall coaching on many participants during the Engage in Dance workshop held at The Danse School in Pasig City.

LAST July 29-31, Developing Basics for Children-Interdisciplinary Studies for Arts & Sciences (DBC-ISAS) The Danse School invited Master Dance teacher Teresa Randall to conduct a series of special dance workshops "Engage in Dance" at its' Valle Verde 1 Studio.

The series was attended by nearly 300 ballet teachers and students. Classes varied from Creative movement, Primary Ballet, Levels 1, 2 & 3 Ballet, Beginner Pointe, Pointe & Variation, Dynamic Movement in Allegro and Pirouette, and Full day Teacher's Workshop.

Jointly, during Randall's 12 day stay in the Philippines, she also conducted Master Classes in UP Diliman and Ballet Center in Cebu both sponsored by The Canadian Embassy and DBC-ISAS.

As part of it's vision, DBC-ISAS The Danse School is committed to promote new dance technologies and methods in the field of dance here in the Philippines. The Danse School prides itself in developing young children and adults not only in classical ballet, but also through their offering in Tap dance, Jazz, and Street dance.

Master Dance teacher Teresa Randall is a faculty member of Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto.

She is also a grades examiner of the Royal Academy of Dance (London).

For inquires you may contact Desiree Peralejo, AISTD, at (632) 671-2616, (632) 671-2630.

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The NVM Awards Now Open For Short-Story and Essay

THE 6th NVM Awards is now open to all Filipino writers for the Best Short-story in English published during the period November 2004 to September 30, 2005 and the Best Essay in English or Filipino, published or unpublished, which deals with any Philippine topic. The best short-story carries the grand prize of P50,000, while the best essay garners a P10,000 for both English and Filipino. The deadline for submission is October 15 this year.

The essay category is new. It is open to any college student whose entry is accompanied by a certification by the head of his/her English/Filipino Department (or equal academic department) as to the authorship of the essay and the bona fide status of the author (as a student) of his/her school. The essay be at least seven (7) but not more than ten (10) pages, double-spaced, typed or computer-printed.

Neither story nor essay which has already won in a national contest will be considered by the judges whose decision shall be final. Six (6) copies of the story and/or essay (including, for the story, its original published form) should be submitted under a pseudonym, together with a sealed envelope containing both pseudonym and author's real name and short profile, to: NVM Gonzalez Awards, P-57 A. Mabini St., Area 1, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City 1101.

The deadline for submission is October 15. The ceremonies for the awards will be held toward the end of November. For inquiries, email: nvmink@yahoo.com.

The Awards honor the late National Artist for Literature, NVM Gonzalez, for his commitment to the highest literary standards and his authentic portrayal of the Filipino.

Bayanihan Placement and Management Services celebrates 12 years

BAYANIHAN Placement and Management Services "Your Link to the Most Qualified Personnel for your Company" celebrated its 12th Foundation Day on Aug. 9. On this occasion, a Thanksgiving Mass was offered, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Louie S. Atanacio. This was held in their office at 651-B Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City. The presentation of Loyalty Awardees followed and subsequently a glorious lunch was served.

As the 12th Foundation Day of Bayaniyan Placement and Management Services coincided with the birth anniversary of its president and general manager, Loida T. Bautista a Dinner Dance also transpired on Aug. 12, at The Legend Villas, Banahaw Grand Ballroom, Pioneer corner Madison Streets City of Mandaluyong. Present on this affair were her employees, family and friends.

Everyone was able to get their dancing shoes prepared and was ready to rock and roll as they swayed the night away.

Power Plant Mall launches first Vintage Bazaar

BARGAIN hunters, flea market travelers and folks who just love fun shopping now have a new destination-Vintage Bazaar by Power Plant Mall.

Vintage Bazaar is a treasure trove of classic Bohemian, Moroccan and Indian finds under one roof. From Aug. 27 to 28, Power Plant Mall's version of the well-loved Bohemian and Moroccan souks hosts merchants selling accessories, antiques, crafts, collectibles, clothing, tools, home décor, wellness and beauty products, and much more. Shoppers will have a blast as they enjoy digging in to find their booty as they weave their way through the climate-controlled indoor "street market" at The Rockwell Tent.

With the Rockwell Lifestyle in mind, the Mall Retail team set out to find only the best Bohemian, Moroccan and Indian-themed classic, chic, hard-to-find items from the "merchants of style". And what they found turned out to be an interesting mix of established names and up-and-coming trendsetters.

Malou Pineda, Power Plant Mall general manager, reveals, "We got off to a challenging start, trying to find the right merchants to bring in to the Vintage Bazaar. We believe that the event's success is directly tied into how well we are able to create the right mix to whet the appetite of our avid shoppers."

Not surprisingly, the Vintage Bazaar has gathered the best in classic Bohemian, Moroccan and Indian style ranging from apparel, accessories and footwear to home décor, collectibles and food stuff.

Moroccan Drops from Brown Belly

Fashion icon Amina Aranaz whips up a treat for shoppers with her unique, intricate handcrafted women's bags. Her collection includes the festival-inspired handbags, purses and totes that Amina designed with style maven Jenni Epperson.

New Yorker, a premium boutique that boasts of A-list clients and classic BoHo collection of accessories and apparel, is one of the more known Vintage Bazaar merchants. Among their featured items are elegant blouses and casual abbreviated tops and boleros accentuated with intricate lace and beadworks. New Yorker will also showcase chic accessories embellished with an assortment of colorful gem stones.

Alessa Libongco, Noelle Hilario and Twinkle Feraren bring in modern style with their clothing and accessories line that uses playful geometric shapes while Brown Belly brings the sun into all its designs with fun prints, bright colors and loose-fitting clothes that spell Summer.

Preview, Limited, Red Jasper, Classic Charms, Anna Pashmina, and collections from Mariel Quimson, Nikki Poblador, Tina Navarro of Ilaya, Gail Ong-Angeles, Shirin for Khazana, Anilin Cruz, Nicole Whisenhunt, among others, also offer a variety of Boho-chic accessories and apparel for all shopping enthusiasts.

Lorraine Gotao, another upcoming young designer, showcases handbags in monochromatic hues in pastel colors and fashionable earrings.

Asian-inspired classic accessories, including mother-of-pearl necklaces, are featured in Cherie Altea's collection.

Sapato Manila and Coco Tres Manila provides us a sampling of classy footwear and bags while young, trendy Mimi Cosmetics offers shoppers beauty products ranging from light blush to dramatic eye shadow to lush lip color.

Vintage Pop and Susan Aguilar provides a twist with eclectic, fun, rare, unique and timeless collectibles.

Take your style to a whole new level. Bargain your way to looking good with the mix and matches of the newest items. And as you catch your breath, enjoy an on-the-spot sketching session with a contemporary artist or relax as you watch a Capoeira demo or have a psychic read what your future holds or dabble in art at the glitter art station. Le Soufflé, Café Mediterranean, Mati and Cork will dish up a feast to refresh your strength for the next round of shopping. The list goes on for Power Plant Mall's Vintage Bazaar.

So make your way to the Vintage Bazaar at the Rockwell Tent on Aug. 27 and 28! Meander. Discover. Uncover quaint finds. Besides, who said that "old-fashion" is not a "young" thing?

PACIFICACION E-MEDCAP

The Public Affairs Service of the Armed Forces Reserve Command conducted a Pacificacion medical mission in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, where insurgents' activity has increased recently, providing medical, dental, optical, deworming and nutritional services as well as minor surgical operation, benefiting over 1,200 patients. Shown are members of the medical team, Maj. Roger Ramones (PA) performing surgery on a patient. Assisting him is nurse Maricel dela Cruz.

Education begins at birth

A CHILD'S first day in school is pretty exciting for most parents. As their 2 or 3-year-old walks out the front door with his new school bag and lunchbox, parents watch proudly and marvel at how fast their baby has grown. It is a milestone that is always remembered. It is their child's "official" start into the world of education and learning.

However, few parents might imagine that their child has been preparing for this big day since he first opened his eyes.

Children are born to learn. From the moment they enter this world and open their eyes, their natural curiosity propels them to make sense of the world around them. Research shows that the brain is the only organ that is not yet fully developed at birth. During the first three years of a child's life, trillions of connections between brain cells are being made. A child's experiences during these critical years greatly influence how the brain grows.

Dyan Joyce Cortez, school director for Tumble Tots, Philippines said, "Infants learn best through tactile, movement and active play activities that allows them to explore and learn about the world around them. These physical activities not only support a baby's physical awareness and excitement about the world but it also stimulates his development in many ways."

Furthermore, she added that babies use their bodies to explore and communicate and these provide the exercise babies need to grow strong and healthy. Every time a baby swings his arms, crawls around or takes a step, he is learning about how the different parts of his body work individually or together. Physical activities also stimulate the connection between the mind and body. Children develop thinking skills and problem solving skills as they try different actions-climbing up, over, in or through. Movement is also essential for helping children put their ideas into action to accomplish a goal.

Tumble Tots, Britain's leading pre-school with over 1,000 centers worldwide, is now in Manila and in Davao City. Their Gymbabes classes had been designed for infants as young as six months old until the walking stage to gain knowledge and build self-confidence as they use their bodies to discover their world.

The knowledge, skills and self-confidence that the child gains as an infant are the building blocks for school success. As many kindergarten teachers have observed, a child's emotional literacy-self-confidence and a sense of competence - are essential for success in school. When children believe in themselves and feel competent, they are more willing to take on new challenges. Self-confidence is also crucial for getting along with others and working out many social challenges that children face in school, such as sharing and working with others.

Joji Ilagan Bian, president of Tumble Tots Philippine Franchise said that with so much emphasis today on preparing children for school, parents are looking for programs that would support their infant's development and the Gymbabes classes is the perfect opportunity to provide these needs; and its teachers have been specially trained to handle such classes using the Tumble Tots world wide curriculum and play equipments.

The Tumble Tots Gymbabes class will develop your baby's thinking and communication skills and nurture his physical development by introducing him to a stimulating, tactile, new world of sensations.

"At Tumble Tots, we build confidence that lasts a lifetime", Bian said.

Free trial sessions are now being offered. Call 687-6793, 687-6375 or 0917-7010097 or visit G/F Technoplaza One, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Tumble Tots Davao can be called at 0917-7040487 or at 0920-9510804 or at 227-5602, 226-3783.

Tesda turns 11; 'Kabayan' graces event

"KABALIKAT sa Kasanayan, Kaagapay sa Kabuhayan" is the theme for the 11th anniversary celebrations of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), ongoing from Aug. 22 to 26 at the Tesda Complex in Taguig City.

The activities for the weeklong celebrations include awarding ceremonies for Tesda's partners, outstanding blue-collar workers and its outstanding employees, norming for the Youth Profiling for Starring Careers (YP4SC), actual assessment for credit transfer under Executive Order 358 (Equivalency) and the launching of the Tesda-Microsoft Project and the Pinoy Chef Program. The anniversary week, which promises to have something for everyone, will also feature the celebration of Trainees' Day, an exhibit for the Dangal ng Barangay products, forging of partnership arrangements with industry groups and other private institutions.

At the heart of the anniversary celebration are the National Kabalikat and President Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Filipino Worker awarding ceremonies scheduled for Aug. 25. Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro will grace the event together with Rep. Cynthia Villar, Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga and other luminaries from industry and local government units, TVET institutions and other stakeholders.

Now on its 8th year, the President Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Filipino Worker Award gives recognition to successful technical vocational education and training (TVET) graduates.

After going through a thorough search in the provincial levels, the regional awardees, divided into self and wage-employed categories, vie for the awards at the national level. A common denominator of this year's awardees is their dedication to their respective trades. Some rose from the ranks, some from rags to riches, but all exhibit extraordinary qualities seemingly inspired by the Award's namesake, President Ramon Magsaysay, who himself was once an automotive mechanic.

This year's nominees for Self-Employed Category are: Noemi Jularbal (CAR), Faivo Bartolome (Region I), Alberto Caan (Region II), Edward Dampor Sr (Region VII), Nathaniel Sansan (Region VIII), Carmelito Temonio Jr (Region IX), Aileen Lazo (Region X), Pedro Barrios (Region XI), and Agapito Lubaton (Region XII).

For the Wage-Employed Category: Roderick Laurena (Region I), Gregorio Gabaldon (Region II), Ronald Aquino (Region III), Rodney Fuentes (NCR), Gerardo Creag (Region IV-A), Nicolas Arcipe Jr (Region V), Virgilio G. Dilla (Region VI), Dr. Cecilio Baga (Region VII), Victor Barberan Jr (Region VIII), Renato Sabado (Region IX), Romeo Lara (Region X), Kathryn Dorado (Region XII), Dr. Georgito Posesano (Caraga). The regional awardees will receive P20,000 each while national winners will take home P100,000 each.

Judges for the selection of national winners include Edwin Tirona (chair), Asec. Ma. Antoinette Velasco-Allones, engineers Gamaliel F. Itao, Eduardo R. Lacbay, and Marilou Esguerra, Dr. Jose D. Lacson and Dir. Arlene O. Zamora.

The Kabalikat Award aims to honor Tesda's partners in the promotion and enhancement of technical education. It is conferred to outstanding local government units, institutions and private companies. National winners are chosen yearly from a list of awardees nominated by the Tesda regional offices or by Tesda executive offices.

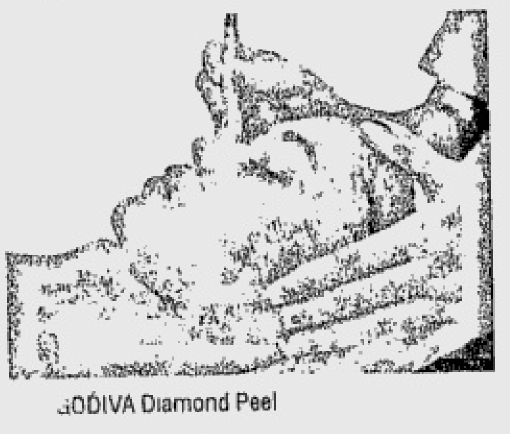
This year's awards include 20 nominees: (Industry Category) Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines (Northern Mindanao Chapter), Bitstop Network Services, MCGK Woodworks; (Institution Category) Kalumonan Development Center, PLAN Philippines (Masbate Unit), Surigao State College of Technology, InWent, Rural Improvement Club, Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection; (Local Government Category) the Municipal Governments of Delfin Albano, Naujan, Atok, Bayawan, Naval and Columbio; the City Governments of Las Piñas, Candon and Bago; the Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija; and the Office of the Representative (2nd District of Batangas).

Under its Director General Sec. Augusto Boboy Syjuco, Tesda looks forward to yet another decade of public service excellence.

Godiva Skin Station promo is back

IT'S BACK! With the public clamoring for more, Godiva Skin Station offers an enhanced version of its incredible promo with new features at incredible prices.

Enjoy fresher, firmer skin with the Godiva Diamond Peel with Facial (combo), regularly priced at P2,700 and now at a promo price of only P1,000 (maximum prepayment of 10 sessions). Choose from Licorice Whitening Facial, Rejuvenating Facial, Anti-Acne Facial or Gentleman's Executive Facial and then followed by a Diamond Peel to pamper your skin even more. Say goodbye to unwanted hair, age spots, sun spots, lines and wrinkles, and acne with Godiva IPL Treatments regularly priced at P300 per pulse and now at an affordable price of only P150 per pulse (maximum prepayment of 50 pulses).


GODIVA Diamond Peel

Godiva Skin Station also offers 50 percent off on Thermocoagulation, the latest treatment for spider veins. Regularly priced at P3,500 per area for an initial session, the Godiva Thermocoagulation treatment can be availed of at a slashed down price of only P1,750. Not only that, you pay only P500 in case there is a need for a follow-up session for the same area.

These promos are available at the newly opened Godiva Skin Station Makati Bel-Air branch and also at the SM-Fairview Annex outlet, definitely until Aug. 31 only! So hurry and catch these incredible offers now! Call 751-6140, 890-9845 or 939-1105 for more information.

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TM
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FILL IT UP! LOAD IT UP!

Officials of Aquasoft Water Systems Inc and Globe Telecom pose for posterity after formalizing a tieup to promote Aquasoft purified water, which is at the forefront of promoting healthy lifestyle by offering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water to the public. Shown, from left, are: Aileen Bardeleon, marketing manager, prepaid and reload, Globe Telecom; Cyndy Salaya, marketing head of Globe Prepaid; Ma. Diana Garcia, executive vice president of Aquasoft Water Systems Inc; Spine Espinocilla, franchise manager, Aquasoft; Michelle Ann Castro, marketing manager, Aquasoft; Joey Contreras, head, Touch Mobile loyalty usage; and AC Villacorta, senior marketing manager, Touch Mobile. Under the promo, dubbed 'Fill It Up! Load It Up!', AquaSoft customers are entitled to free Globe Prepaid loads for every 3 points earned or equivalent to three 5-gallon refills. Customers also have the chance to win cell phones in the raffle draws. The promo is also AquaSoft's way of expressing its gratitude to its valued customers.

Thule/EGR's new showroom

IN RESPONSE to the growing needs of the domestic market, Thule/EGR Philippines has opened a showroom at the Ground Floor of the Natividad Building, 2308 Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) Extension, Makati City. On display at the Thule showroom are the EGR automotive visors, Maxliner pick-up accessories, various Thule load and box carriers and the now popular bike racks. In true Thule fashion, patrons can view Thule/EGR products at a relaxing, comfortable, cozy and classy atmosphere. All Thule/EGR products come with a full warranty and is the only load carrier system being sold in the country certified by the Ford Q1, QS9000, German DIN 75302 and Environmental Certificate ISO 14001. Thule is also available as a dealer option for Toyota dealers in Pasong Tamo, Makati, Toyota Ortigas and in select Nissan dealers in Metro Manila. For inquiries about how to maximize and protect your investment, log on to www.thule.com or visit the new dealership at Chino Roces Extension, Makati and the Thule/EGR showroom at the Equitable Bank Building, Ortigas corner Roosevelt Streets, Greenhills, San Juan or call 744-6367 or 892-7847.

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Customs investigates cement firm for undervaluing goods

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE CUSTOMS bureau and the government's Anti-Smuggling Task Force are investigating a local cement trading firm for allegedly undervaluing and smuggling in 46,000 tons of cement through the Port of Manila.

Documents from the Bureau of Customs' probe alleged that Southern Cross Cement Corp. imported 58,000 tons of cement from Japan earlier this year, and "undervalued" its import entry declarations.

In doing so, the firm managed to "avoid the payment of at least P6 million in customs taxes and P18 million in value-added taxes totaling P24 million in tax revenues for the government," the documents said.

The complaint against Sourthern Cross was lodged with regulators by the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, whose members are complaining against low-priced, smuggled cement.

A Southern Cross official was quick to dismiss the charges, claiming that authorities have yet to present proof of the alleged smuggling activities.

"The Bureau of Customs is still investigating," the firm's administration manager Isagani Fernandez said in a telephone interview.

In addition, the complaint against Southern Cross also alleges that it "fraudulently misdeclared that it has no relationship with its Japanese sellers of cement [which] happens to be its parent [firm], in order to take advantage of the 'transaction value' method of valuation of its imports for tax purposes."

The firm "illegally withdrew over 46,000 tons of cement from its terminal without having authorization from the Bureau of Customs, thus committing outright smuggling," the complaint added.

Southern Cross countered that the standard practice in such cases is for the contested goods to be released to the importer under a "tentative liquidation" scheme once a bond deposit is made.

"Customs is supposed to bill us if there is a discrepancy," Fernandez said.

In a separate letter to the Customs bureau, Bonifacio de Castro Juson of the Industry Commodity Experts group pointed out that Southern Cross valued its inbound freight at $1.60 per metric ton.

Based on the price of the cement Southern Cross had declared, the total value comes to $420,298.51.

But since December 2001, the firm had been declaring its cement imports at between $14.20 to $14.50 per metric ton.

"It is highly inconceivable why the importer has declared a very unrealistic freight rate in its latest shipment," he said.

Fernandez said that the figure was a "clerical error," which the firm is trying to correct.

The Bureau of Customs has mobilized its Intelligence and Enforcement Group, its Formal Entry Division, its Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service, the District Collector's Office, and its Investigation and Prosecution Division to resolve the case.

House bill runs counter to gov't fiscal reforms, says Finance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has questioned the practicality of the move by some congressmen to push for the granting of fiscal incentives to banks selling foreclosed farmlands.

A finance official said the granting of fiscal incentives, including exemption from capital gains tax, is not in tune with the government's current efforts to cut down on incentives and boost revenues.

For this reason, the DOF would study with caution the proposal of the legislators, the official said.

A bill on agricultural credit, co-authored by several legislators, has been filed in the Lower House.

The bill seeks to allow farmers to use as collateral in asking for loans the farmlands they received through agrarian reform.

To encourage banks to lend, the bill seeks to grant tax exemptions to them.

The bill is being deliberated in the Lower House, with representatives from the DOF being asked about the agency's position.

"While we are trying to rationalize the fiscal incentives granted by the government, here is another proposal to grant tax exemptions," a finance official said.

The official, however, said the DOF has yet to give its formal position on the matter.

The bill is entitled "An Act to Provide Farmers Broader Access to Agricultural Credit and Providing Mechanisms therefore and For Other Purposes."

Under the bill, real properties to be covered by the tax exemption include lands covered by homestead grants and free patents, lands covered by the CARP but not yet fully paid, and lands covered by the CARP that are fully paid but still within the 10-year prohibition period.

Under the CARP, farmer beneficiaries are prohibited from selling the land they received within a 10-year period.

Digitel offers IDD promo

DIGITEL has introduced its Value iPhone (ViP), which offers a broad spectrum of IP-based long-distance call services for as low as 8 cents per minute for IDD and P3 per minute for NDD services.

Business and residential customers who are heavy NDD and IDD users can choose from plans ranging from as low as Plan 450 to Plan 5000, depending on their usage requirement. A ViP unit costs P5,600 and comes with caller ID, call waiting and call forwarding features.

Business subscribers who have multiple office locations can take advantage of the service by creating their own voice network for effective call cost management and on-net availability nationwide.

William Pamintuan, Digitel senior vice president, said Digitel was the first telecommunications company in the country to invest in a next generation network.

"This allowed us to roll out a suite of state-of-the-art, cost-efficient and useful IP-based services for our subscribers. ViP is the next best alternative phone service for the next generation users," he said.

VISA Equitable CARD

Congratulations to the winners of the Equitable Visa 'Be among the first to visit Hong Kong Disneyland' promotion

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The magic begins September 12, 2005

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2. Abiner, Evangeline G.
3. Nilo, Arnel T.

Winners of one (1) day passes for two (2) to Hong Kong Disneyland.
1. Guarina, Ivan N.
2. Bernardo, Avelina
3. Chua, Mary Julie C. A.
4. Go, Ricardo S.

Equitable CARD

POLOAIR Travel and Tours

Claim your prizes at the 3F Equitable Card Center, 203 Salcedo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. All Sneak Peek passes must be claimed not later than August 27, 2005. **To find out more, visit www.visa-asia.com today. In partnership with POLOAIR Travel and Tours.**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3843, Series of 2005.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Workshop for Young Journalists scrapbook

THE RED BOX sessions JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Three days of fun and learning—and the participants weren't the only ones who went home armed with lessons

By Pam Pastor

THE 2BU! Workshop for Young Journalists was a dream come true, and one that took a while to turn into reality.

A joint effort of 2bU! and INQUIRER's marketing department, the workshop was the fruit of many hours of meetings, planning, phone calls, e-mails and text messages. But once the plan was set in motion, things fell into place.

Applications from different schools from all over the country flooded our office in response to our announcements. Many companies expressed interest in helping out—and a lot of them followed through.

We chose Red Box, Greenbelt's MyCinema, Banana Leaf Asian Café and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf for venues.

The idea was to create a new workshop experience, away from the classroom atmosphere and packed with a lot of fun.

Soon, we had a short list of participating schools: Silliman University, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Adventist University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Iloilo, De La Salle Lipa, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Philippine Science High School, Ateneo de Manila High School and Immaculate Conception Academy.

The participants arrived on Day One not knowing what to expect. We were excited. With speakers like INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, columnist Conrado de Quiros, lifestyle editor Chelo Banal-Formoso, 2bU! columnist and Super's creative director Tim Yap, INQUIRER Libre's Showbuzz editor Rommel Lalata, Sunday INQUIRER Magazine's associate editor Ruel De Vera, INQUIRER contributor Oliver Pulumbarit and professional photographer Xander Angeles, why shouldn't we be?

We planned a lot of surprises for the participants, too—the impromptu press conference with MTV VJ Maike Evers so they could practice their interview skills, the screening of "Herbie: Fully Loaded" so they could apply Ruel De Vera's movie-review tips, the P1,000 budget challenge which aimed to help the participants bond with each other, the photo contest sponsored by Canon Philippines and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, and the party at Red Box on the last night.

We gave away a lot of prizes: shoes sponsored by Skechers, watches from No Curfew and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf goodies for the winners of the photo contest; Guyito stuffed toys for the winners of the P1,000 challenge and watches from Time Depot for those voted as Mr. and Ms Congeniality.

But apart from the prizes and the freebies (although there were a lot), there was so much we wanted to share with the participants through the workshop.

It was another step toward youth empowerment, a time to interact with journalists who are making a difference in their fields, an opportunity to build a community of young journalists (who can act as a support group of sorts) and the chance to establish ties with 2bU!.

The workshop is only the beginning of 2bU!'s relationship with these student publications. In the coming months, you will witness more partnerships as we carry out the issues that they planned on the last day of the workshop.

After the workshop, we received a lot of text messages and e-mails from the participants thanking us for the experience.

One girl wrote, "It was really a great help for us in the realization of our dreams to do best in our respective fields. The vision of PDI to help the youth in the development of our nation is really remarkable. Thank you for giving us the chance to fulfill our dreams. Thank you for believing in our capability to move our nation. Thank you for giving importance to the student journalists and the rest of the youth in this nation. May your vision go on, and [may we] always be part of that vision. No one can ever explain how fortunate and happy I was during the workshop. It's beyond everybody else's experience. Thanks PDI! Now I know what's behind your success, and that is helping others realize their dreams and making those dreams possible."

In reality, we are the ones who should be thanking them.

Being surrounded by idealistic young journalists who are brimming with hope and promise was refreshing.

We returned to work the following week feeling renewed, focused and recharged with even more energy and passion for this industry we all love.

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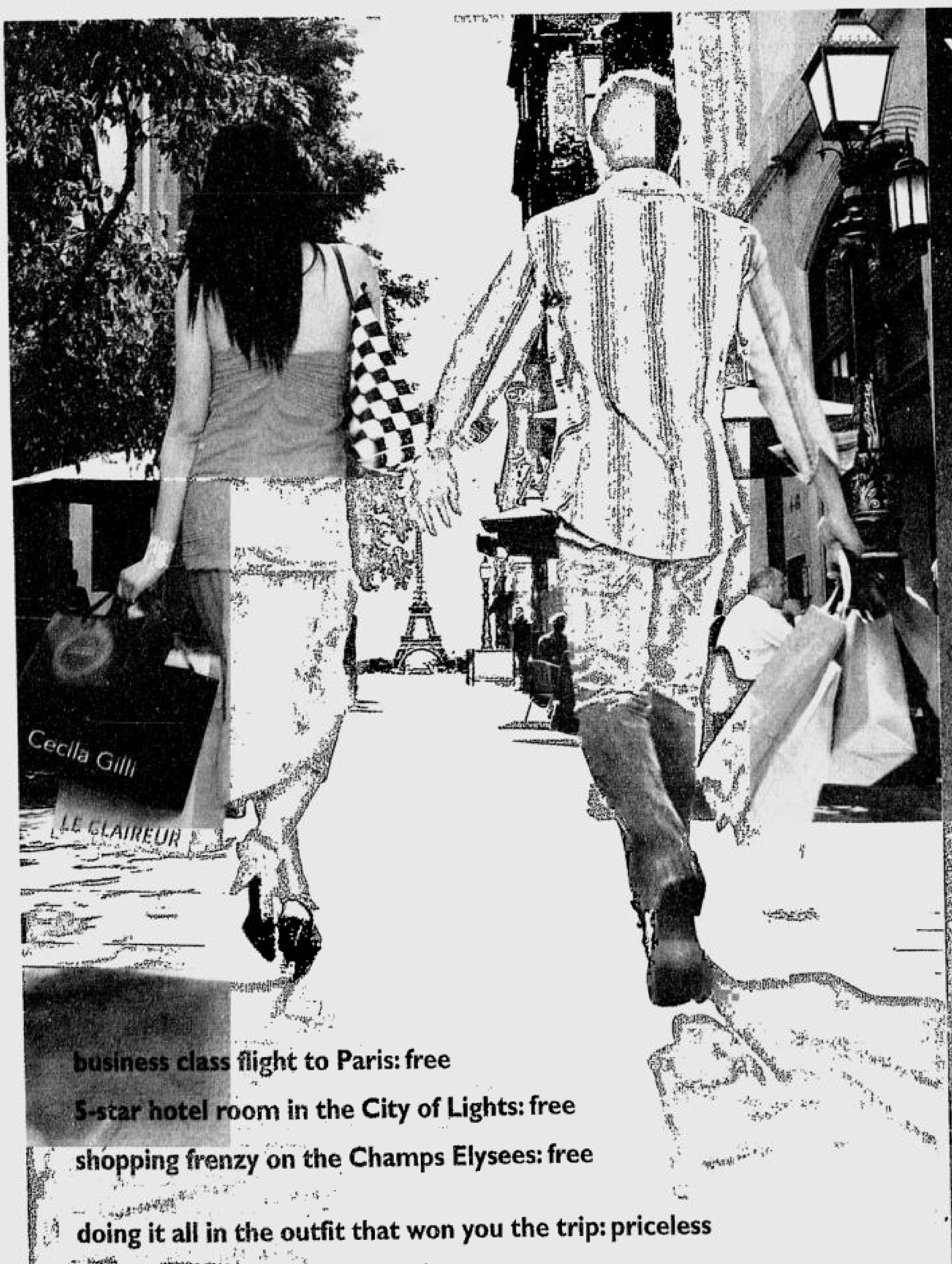

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Day One:

THE PARTICIPANTS of the first-ever 2bU! Workshop for Young Journalists were welcomed by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president/CEO of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. After lunch at Red Box, they had their first session with Isagani Yambot, INQUIRER's publisher, who discussed "Understanding the Media" and answered questions about many different topics—from libel and bribery to aggressive reporters and death threats.

Session 2 was with Oliver Pulumbarit, a regular INQUIRER contributor who has interviewed many interesting local and international celebrities including Dolphy, Ethan Hawke and Avril Lavigne. He shared tips on how to write interesting personality profiles and how to handle difficult interviews. Session two ended with a surprise—an impromptu press conference with Maike Evers, an MTV VJ and model, who gamely answered the many questions the participants threw at her.

After session 2, the participants were divided into five groups for a budgeting challenge. The purpose of the challenge was three-fold: to encourage the participants to get to know one another, to have them bond over snacks and to develop their budgeting habits—a necessity for journalists who travel.

The day ended with session 3, which the participants found particularly exciting. They spent about an hour with Tim Yap, who gave them tips on how to unleash their creativity. He repeatedly stressed the importance of having an open mind and not being afraid of being different. He answered questions about writer's block and finding new angles to old stories.

THE WORKSHOP participants with INQUIRER President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

PHOTOS: JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Fellowship of writers

By Pamela "Tootsie" Gutierrez
University of the Philippines Los Baños

WHO SAID workshops had to be boring? Apparently not 2bU!

The 2bU! staff members opted for a more innovative, participatory slant in the first ever Workshop for Young Journalists last July 15-17. Young writers from all over the Philippines spent time not only writing and listening but also singing at a videoke bar, running all around the mall, taking pictures at weird angles, dining at fine places, watching movie premieres and bonding with each other. And amazingly enough for me, I got to be one of those youths!

Untraditional

On the first day of the workshop, I was surprised to see that we would be meeting at RedBox, a videoke bar at the third floor of Greenbelt. In fact, my classmates and I thought that we had misunderstood the letter sent to us and that we were lost. But the members of the 2bU! staff assured us that it was definitely the place.

According to 2bU! editor Pam Pastor, they really opted for untraditional places to hold the workshop since they didn't want a stiff, classroom type of event.

And untraditional it was! Over the next few days, we sauntered through myCinema, Banana Leaf Asian Café and Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf while meeting the great writers of INQUIRER.

Inspiring

When you think of the word writer, I am sure you get the visual image of a man with worry lines creasing his face, hunched over a typewriter or computer. He's probably wearing eyeglasses and overly crumpled clothes, avoiding other people's eyes because he might be an introvert or a cynic.

In the workshop, we met writers such as Oliver Pulumbarit, Tim Yap, Ruel de Vera, Pam Pastor, Rommel Lalata, Conrado de Quiros and Chelo Banal-Formoso. We were also introduced to Isagani Yambot and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, INQUIRER's publisher and CEO respectively. None of them fitted our mental image of a writer. They were all very friendly and sociable, answering all our questions no matter how mundane they seemed, shaking hands, signing autographs but most important, giving amazing insights to their lives as writers.

Through the hustle and bustle of lunch, Conrado de Quiros advised us to write only about things we know and the things we feel strongly about. I personally think that that was great advice. Many times, writers try to go beyond their field of experience to disastrous consequences.

Chelo Banal-Formoso, on the other hand, told us that as beginning writers, one of our greatest allies in the business would be our outlines. This will make sure that our data are well organized and that our paragraph would be joined together seamlessly.

But aside from tips, some writers also gave us "homework." Oliver Pulumbarit, for example, suggested that we write down the five celebrities who we find most interesting and what one question would we ask him or her. Personally, I would like to interview Oprah Winfrey and the late Nick Joaquin. I would ask Oprah, "How?", and Nick Joaquin, "What is a true Filipino?".

Challenging

I think the most exciting thing about the workshop though, by far, were the challenges.

On the first day, we were challenged to make P1,000 fit the *merienda* of eight people. It was remarkable what some groups came up with. My group spent time hanging around the grocery talking and bonding over ice cream and chips. Other groups went to Starbucks and eat-all-you-can buffets. But the most astonishing group only spent P10 per member's *merienda*. They each got a stuffed Guyito toy as prize.

On that same day, we were also surprised with an impromptu press conference with MTV VJ Maike Evers. It was exhilarating to ask a real-life celebrity my questions, trying to grab her attention among a roomful of people.

On the second day, we were dared to write a review of the movie, "Herbie: Fully Loaded," and on the last day to take pictures of Coffee Bean and Tea House after an interview with Xander Angeles.

All in all, the experience was really something. I not only got to meet the amazing people of the Inquirer but also hobnob with aspiring writers from all parts of the Philippines. It was definitely enriching for me and I can't wait to go to another one!

The author is the managing editor of the UP Los Baños Times.

ISAGANI Yambot with the workshop participants

The workshop changed my idea of writers as aloof and cynical

OLIVER Pulumbarit talks about interviewing personalities.

2BU! COLUMNIST and Super! creative director Tim Yap signs autographs after his enjoyable session.

The P1,000 challenge

Journalism is all about maximizing scarce resources

By Jaime A. Manalo IV
University of the Philippines Los Baños

GREENBELT is an expensive place. If you and eight of your friends are lost in Greenbelt hungry and you have P1,000 to spend, how will you spend it?

During the 2bU! Seminar Workshop for Young Journalists, one of the activities was the P1,000 challenge. The objectives of the activity were: to make the participants closer to one another, to partake of *merienda* at less cost, and to inculcate the value of thrift, essential for a journalist wanna-be.

The participants were divided into five groups, each group had nine members. The groups were given 30 minutes to spend the money. The cheapest wins the game.

Our group decided to look for the cheapest place in Greenbelt. At first, we wondered if we would ever find one. Restaurants were so flashy that a meal would cost around P100 to P200 or more, we couldn't afford it. Until we saw the Japanese cake stall at the ground floor.

The cake costs P10 each. So we spent P90 for nine cakes. The rest of the money we divided among ourselves. Actually, none of us was hungry that time so we really didn't feel the urge to eat. We enjoyed talking about school, campus hot spots, campus papers and inflation.

Funny how we got close to one another on our first encounter. We went back to the venue together while exchanging calling cards and cell phone numbers.

The next day, all of the groups reported their expenses. Some spent their time at Starbucks, some ate at restaurants, while one generous group bought a lot of goodies from the grocery and shared them to everybody. All of them spent around P500 and above. We only spent P90. We were the cheapest, so we won. We went home with Guyito, the carabao. This time a bigger mascot, about the size of a teddy bear.

Aside from the prize and new friends, I think the message of the activity was very clear. As journalists, or future journalists for that matter, we should be very wise in spending our money. As Pam Pastor, 2bU! editor said, "there are a lot of inexpensive ways to appear fabulous, you just have to learn them."

Finally being myself

Writing is a channel for expression of one's individuality

By Elmer Harold O. Grande
Adviser, The Los Baños Times

LEARNING indeed is a never-ending experience. I guess I had to learn as much as my students did when we attended the 2bU! Workshop for Young Journalists.

The venue, Red Box at Greenbelt in Makati, was a sign that this wasn't going to be like the other workshops I attended. Sure enough, the place made the participants relaxed as if they were just hanging out with friends.

I was there as a chaperone of three students but I ended up as a participant myself. Though I already knew the topics discussed since I teach some of those, my sense of determination and passion has been reenergized. Listening to trailblazers in the newspaper business—from the publisher to the columnists, section editors and writers—one would feel there has to be something that drives these people to do what they do and be the best in doing it. It's not just for money or fame. It is being able to serve through what they are capable of doing.

Going to journalism school may not be a popular choice among youth nowadays, even for those who have the "gift of word." Journalism is neither a fancy nor an ordinary job. However, if we are to have a steady breed of tellers of truth and guardians of public interest, it is important that we create a culture that would encourage the youth to speak up and give them venue to express their ideas and nurture their creativity, brilliance and nationalism.

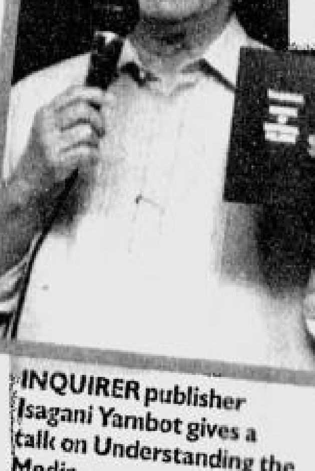
Listening to the much younger participants ask questions and speak their minds gave me hope. It also cured me of my frustration to do what I've always wanted to do—to express myself and not seek approval. Of course, it has to be within the bounds of what is right and true.

When we grow old, we give in to other people who think we should behave in a certain way. But we must really know who we are and express it through any form so can realize what we are capable of doing and use it to serve others. It's interesting that I had to relearn the lesson of being true to oneself with a bunch of people 10 years younger than I am. Perhaps it's better than reading a self-help book.

My three-day workshop experience appeared like a sequel to "Never Been Kissed." A lot of the participants don't have any idea that I've been toiling for five years now. I guess I looked the part.

The experience was timely especially now that I'm raving and ranting about my first quarter years of existence. At 25, one has reached the age when one knows what one can do, but it's also the age when one doesn't know where to go and still would want to do.

I used to envy my friends who way back then regularly contributed articles to 2bU! I never had the guts to write. Years have passed, and the yearning to write is still there. Well, I guess I have my chance now. There is simply no age limit when you simply want to be yourself.



INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot gives a talk on Understanding the Media.

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Pretty, pretty Maike

By Thea Alberto
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

SEEN tons of times in various TV commercials, print ads and larger-than-life billboards along Edsa, Maike Evers owns a very pretty face women would definitely envy. Her exotic *mestiza* features—a perfect mixture of her German dad's and Filipina mother's genes—launched her modeling career in the Philippines years ago. Now, she is all grown-up but still as fresh as ever.

Calling herself "lucky" for landing a job as MTV VJ, Maike admits she finds it ironic that she has to be wacky in front of the camera when, in fact, she remains a shy girl, even after her years of modeling experience.

"I really am shy, [but because of this shyness] I am stereotyped as a snob, which I am not," says the 5'7" Psychology major. "Fortunately, because of MTV, I get to show my wacky side. MTV is so much fun."

The craziest thing she has done on-cam? "I got dressed up as a robot, with a 'metallic' makeup. It was fun!"

Beauty and brains often don't mix together, but Maike seems to prove this wrong. She does not only possess exceptional physical beauty, she also knows how to speak her mind (and even put them in print). She is happy to get good feedback about her column in another broadsheet, and says it feels good to be able to share her thoughts.

"That's like being a role model. Hopefully, I am doing a good job with it," she says.

Maike's Filipina upbringing still shines through even though she grew up in Australia and is accustomed to various cultures, having done extensive traveling.

"I am really conservative. That is undeniably the Filipina in me," she says. And although she has done various bikini shoots as a model, she is firm that she won't ever go naked for the camera.

Maike has strong convictions. "In life, you should not make assumptions," she says. "I believe things should not be always taken personally. We just have to respect other people's perspective on things."

If she got stuck in an island, this girl would rather have her laptop, iPod ("Because I really love music") and chocolates with her.

Lucky Maike, for her fetish for chocolates is not at all obvious in her slender body. She says she fulfills her "chocolate lust" whenever she can, and never considers those sweet brown candies detrimental to her figure and modeling career.

With Maike's bubbly, charming yet sensible personality, a lot of opportunities undoubtedly await her. And she deserves all of them.

The author is the associate editor of the UPLB Perspective.

Maike beyond misconceptions

The real Maike Evers is so unlike the model you see on TV and magazines

By Mara Barbra S. Nanaman
Silliman University
Dumaguete

SEEING how hot MTV VJ Maike Evers is, it's very easy to stereotype her and assume she's a snob like any other celebrity. After all, it's easy to think, "You can't be that hot and not be a snob!"

But looking at her, sitting there in the middle of the room, almost fidgety amid 45 pairs of assessing and star-struck eyes, it's easy to forget that she's famous. Surprisingly, she's far less intimidating in person (though no less gorgeous) and far more approachable. You can actually feel a sense of shyness around her.

"Don't make assumptions." Maike lives by this dictum every day, and she says it in a kind of soft, breathy voice with that delightful, yummy accent. She talks softly, yet what she says rings loud and clear.

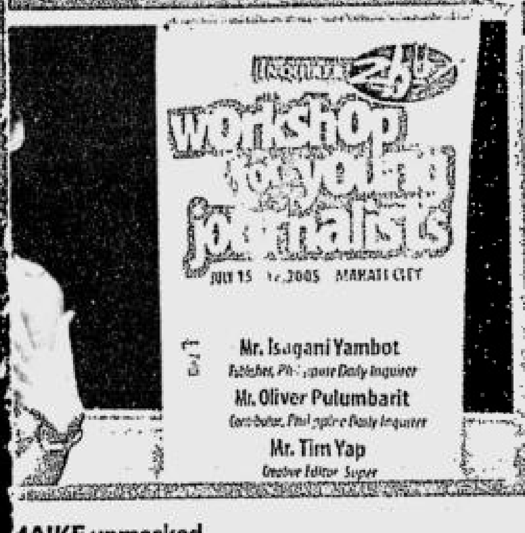
The real Maike is so unlike the model you see in TV and magazines. Take her interesting choice of shirt for that interview, for example. It says, or rather, it asks: "Why settle?" Instead of stopping at, "'Cause I thought there wasn't going to be a large audience," she went on to say, "But, really, why settle? Why settle for less than what you deserve?"

Then there's her preference for her MTV work over modeling. "Modeling is fun, but you're just a face. In MTV, you get to have more personality, you get to express more of you," she says.

She also writes a column for another broadsheet: There used to be a time when VJ, model and columnist didn't belong in the same sentence. But that was before Maike Evers came along. Now we know pretty girls can be out-of-the-ordinary.

The author is the editor in chief of The Weekly Sillimanian.

MAIKE Evers and the participants of the 2bU! Workshop for Young Journalists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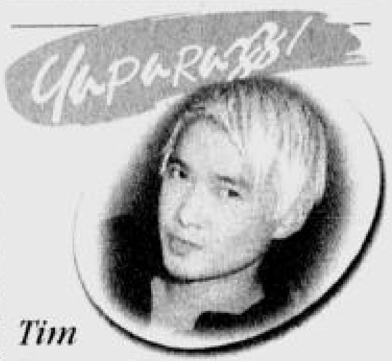
Everything I needed to learn, I learned in kindergarten



Tim Yap

I HAD no second thoughts about heading to Red Box for the 2bU! Workshop for Young Journalists.

The last time I was assigned by my mother paper to give a talk on journalism, I faced Ateneo college students. This one I was really psyched for, for I do love giving encouragement to university students before they head out to the "real" world. And I'm a true-blue (I mean green-blooded) La Sallian. I am also a strong advocate of the youth voice, always telling the young that our opinion matters. I prepared a speech worthy of a valedictory address (at least in my opinion).

Much to my surprise, I wasn't booked in an auditorium with college students who were eager to learn how to slug it out in the corporate field. Inside a tiny classroom, I was faced with grade-school pupils and some high-school students who wanted to slug something else (maybe me? I didn't know). I tried to remember my least favorite high school teacher and made a mental note not to be like her—you know, stern-looking, wrapped in a shawl, who would try to earn our respect through fear (though I knew deep down she wasn't really like that).

Paternal side

So instead of pulling out my big stick, I channeled my paternal side and became as nurturing as I possibly could. Kids are very special, and no matter what age they are in, as the witch in "Into the Woods" said, "Careful what you say, children will listen." Try to strike fear in their hearts and they will listen in front of you, but you will never gain their respect outside of your presence.

I tried my best to indulge them with fun, gave them a couple of anecdotes and some advice, did a few writing exercises, and solicited an informal survey on stuff they liked, things they abhorred, their goals and aspirations.

After collecting their papers, I read some of them aloud. "My dream is to have a billboard in Edsa." Now this particular guy didn't get a billboard but instead ended up the lead in a toothpaste commercial. See what I mean?

It's called visualization, baby. Sometimes you wish for something, but you get something even bigger. "I want to be a director someday." This student is now taking up film in UP Diliman. "I want to be like you," another said. I saw him last week at Embassy. Oh my.

Empowering

Now, about the 2bU! workshop... There is something about being in a roomful of young people eager to absorb stuff about life that feels very empowering. The mere fact that these young people were there meant they were interested enough to learn something from the speakers.

Pam Pastor, this section's chief, sent me this midnight text message: "It was so refreshing to see idealistic kids who have so much promise in them. This workshop reminded me of who we're really doing this for—and I love it. I feel even more passionate about what we do now." And it took the young participants to make us realize that.

To think that, just a few days before, while preparing for the workshops, Pam was having a not-so-great day upon discovering a Pandora's box of messages slamming 2bU!, Super!, myself and **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**.

Truth be told, in my eight years of writing for this distinguished paper, I have become used to this kind of stuff. I have been called almost everything there is—from being a social climber to having a ghost writer. But I consider every passionate reader response, happy or unhappy, a significant compliment. "At least you know you're being read," I overheard our Lifestyle mother editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** tell Tessa over the phone.

Kris Aquino may not be the most well-liked person on this planet, but look where she is now. (Okay, that may not have been the best example to prove my point.)

And if they hit below the belt? Ooh, I might even like that.

TIM YAP and the workshop participants

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Advice

The first thing I told the 2bU! workshop participants was not to be late.

Okay, I can hear my colleagues laughing out loud. But seriously, in a field filled with deadlines, a sense of punctuality is a first requirement, along with a good attitude (some editors have attitude problems, too).

You need to submit on time (Ouch! God knows I'm suffering the consequences of my tardiness), and have a pleasant working relationship with the staff and everybody else you interact with. Being nice and compassionate always has its rewards. And even if it doesn't, it still pays to be, just because you are a good person. And good things come to good people. We learned that way back in kindergarten.

Outside of advice-giving, we played games on how to tackle writer's block by trying to approach every activity with as much creativity as we could summon. We all had a great time.

I didn't even use the microphone of Red Box, for fear that I might be tempted to break into my rendition of "Total Eclipse of the Heart."

Lively forum

The forum was so lively, filled with very insightful questions devoid of the usual mindless press con Q&A's that some of us have to bear. And it provided a way to dialogue with the most important people in our lives—our readers.

The workshop was our way of sharing our years to the young guns, our way of giving back to them. In the process, we also learned more about ourselves, our message, our market and our mission.

"In an era when shameless demonization and lies about our lives are the bedrock on which many national leaders build power, our greatest hope for the future is in the strength and audacity of this generation. Whatever our age or background or family situation, if we are not attentive to the needs and experiences of the young, neither the publication nor the movement will succeed. It's our job to help pave their way, and eventually, to get the hell out of their way," to quote **Bruce Steele**, editor of Advocate magazine.

INQUIRER president **Sandy Prieto-Romualdez** also put it so well when she said, "The medium is still the message." And that, ladies and gentlemen, we must not forget.

E-mail the author at supertim@pldtdsl.net

> In my eight years of being a 2bU! columnist, I have been called almost everything—from being a social climber to having a ghost writer. But that's life

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Muchas gracias, 2bU!

By Mara Barbra S. Nanaman
Silliman University
Dumaguete

FLYING all the way from quiet Dumaguete and landing smack in the middle of noisy Manila always jars my senses. The stark contrasts, the sudden blast of noise and pollution and the surging flow of humanity always makes the ride to the hotel feel like a dream.

This particular visit to Greenbelt, Makati, for the 2bU! workshop had me reeling from the barrage of experiences we went through. As I hail from Mindanao and study in laid-back, almost rural Dumaguete, my exposure to the national media practitioners I look up to has usually been through TV and the pages of national broadsheets.

But 2bU! made meeting and interacting with them a reality, and aspiring journalist that I am, I am forever grateful to them for the opportunity.

Interesting character

The INQUIRER publisher, Mr. Isagani Yambot, is always a thrill to meet in person. I've met him three times now and still, I kept feeling a sense of disbelief at being able to talk to him and ask him questions. Tim Yap was quite an interesting character. He was blond when I met him, kooky in a fun sort of way and full of antics. Like the way he Indian-sat on top of a swiveling stool during his lecture, which kept me

MUCHAS/ D2

THE WORKSHOP participants pose with INQUIRER columnist Conrado De Quiros. ROGER CARPIO

DE QUIROS was a favorite speaker of the participants. ROGER CARPIO

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This particular visit to Greenbelt, Makati, for the 2bU! workshop had me reeling from the barrage of experiences we went through

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Cherie Gil
Actress

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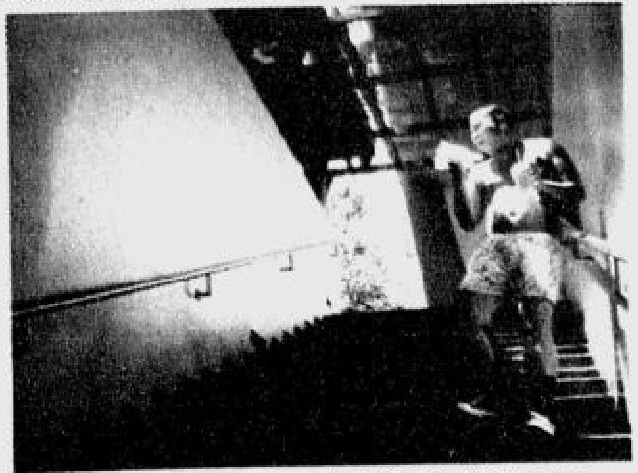
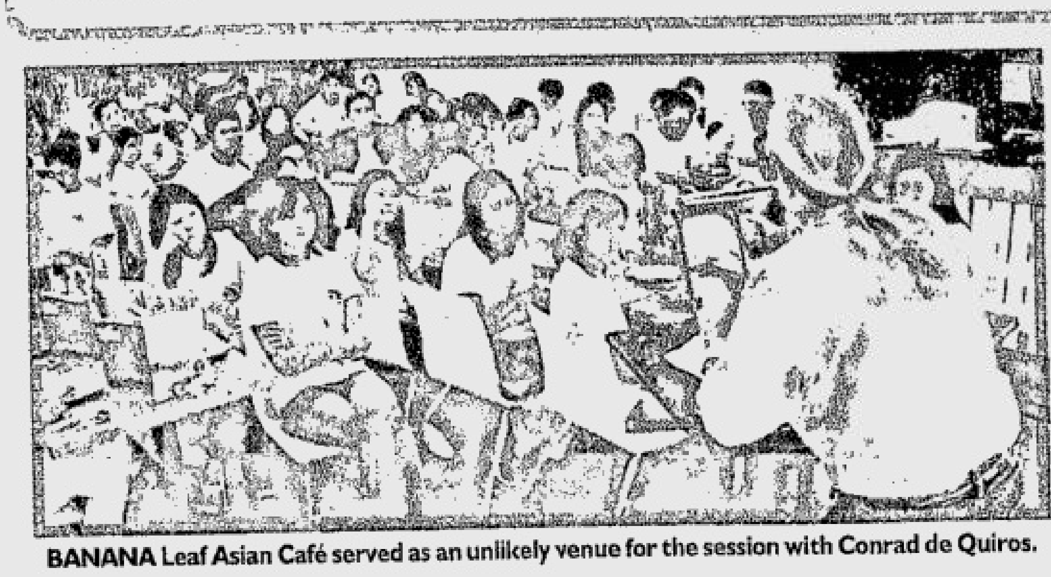


"BUGOY: Ang Batang Greenbelt" by Kneil Melicano, Nahu, De Jonggoy and Alvin Abing. Winner of Best Photo Award

After Xander Angeles' session on photography, the participants were given the chance to show off their own skills, thanks to a contest sponsored by Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Canon Philippines. Here are the winners

"IT'S HOT" by TQ Antiquena, Sunny Katigbak and Pearl Perlada from DLSU-Manila. Winner of Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Special Photo Prize

"YELLOW INTRIGUE" by Mara Nanaman, Marlei Dawn Conserman and Mary Jef Omolon of Silliman University. Winner of Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Special Photo Prize



BANANA Leaf Asian Café served as an unlikely venue for the session with Conrad de Quiros.

Day Two

DAY Two began with an inspiring session with the Hands On Manila team, led by managing director Lisa Crisostomo, who shared the magic of volunteerism with the participants and encouraged them to use their craft to make a difference in the world.

Session two was with Ruel De Vera, associate editor of the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine, who gave the students pointers on reviewing movies and books. The students were asked to exercise what they had learned that evening, at a special private screening of "Herbie: Fully Loaded" at Greenbelt's MyCinema.

Session three was led by Chelo Banal-Formoso, INQUIRER lifestyle editor. She shared her thoughts on lifestyle and feature writing. She answered questions from the students, giving them tips on how to decide which stories are print-worthy and how to handle the different kinds of people they will meet in their lives as journalists.

The arrival of Conrado de Quiros at Banana Leaf Asian Café in Glorietta was met with much enthusiasm. After a late lunch, the students had the chance to listen to De Quiros talk about writing opinion pieces and his life as a writer. He stayed long after his talk to answer questions from the students, to pose for photographs and sign autographs for them.

PHOTOS: ROGER CARPIO

Day Three

XANDER Angeles, a professional photographer, kicked off Day Three. While enjoying tea al fresco at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, he gave the students tips on taking photographs that would leave a lasting impression. Students were given the chance to apply what they had learned immediately after the session. They were asked to go around the Greenbelt area to take photos and proceed to the Canon booth where they had their images printed. Awards were then given to students whose photos were chosen as the best ones.

After lunch, the participants had a session with the INQUIRER Libre Team, headed by Chito de La Vega and Rommel Lalata. They shared stories about their inspiring work in INQUIRER's free commuter tabloid.

Session three was with Pam Pastor, 2bU! chief of correspondents, who gave the participants tips on breaking into the industry at a young age. She also talked about the process of closing 2bU!'s pages as an introduction to the day's activity.

Participants were then asked to regroup with the other members of their school publications so they could plan their own 2bU! issue. The people behind the five best-planned issues will get to be 2bU! Editors For A Week in the coming months. 2bU! Editors For A Week will be given the chance to turn their plans into reality.

The students were asked to submit different articles after the workshop—a personality profile on Maike Evers, a movie review of "Herbie: Fully Loaded," a restaurant review of Banana Leaf Asian Café, a story on their P1,000-challenge experience and another story on their experience at the 2bU! Workshop for Young Journalists.

The sessions were facilitated by 2bU! product manager Hazel Soriaga, 2bU! correspondent Mark Sablan and Pam Pastor.

PARTICIPANTS in games and activities designed to unlock their creativity (top and right)

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Muchas gracias, 2

thinking he was going to fall off anytime.

Oliver Pulumbarit, who talked about feature-writing that focused on personality interviews, was mighty helpful. It was a blast meeting someone who has interviewed the likes of Ethan Hawke and Avril Lavigne.

Mr. Pulumbarit taught us how important it was to always respect interviewees, and be sensitive about questions to ask them. So just because they're celebrities doesn't mean you can hit them with questions like, "How's your sex life?"

Then there was the perpetually witty and funny Ruel de Vera. The first time I met him two years ago, I remembered him saying: "There's no such thing as a lone Korean. It's always a group of Koreans," like it's this unbreakable rule in the use of singular and plural adjectives. Man, that guy could drive you to a fit of giggles. I couldn't believe I was sitting there again, in a fit of Ruel de Vera-induced hysterics.

With social workers for parents, I definitely related to our lecture on volunteerism. Hands-On Manila sounded really interesting. Too bad they were based in Manila. But it was really encouraging for me, especially on how to be more helpful and participative in mom and dad's work.

Feisty lady

I'm not much of a lifestyle section person, and I was surprised to find out that so was the lifestyle editor. Ms Chelo Banal-Formoso, looking very demure, confessed, "I let people like Tim [Yap] attend parties." But we also found out that she was quite a feisty lady, as she shared her experience about, say, disgruntled readers storming her office over blind items about someone they thought they knew.

The things people like her have to put up with! I always thought lifestyle editors got all the fun with all those parties. Well, I got another thought coming.

Model/MTV VJ Maike Evers was also a thrill to meet in person. Quite the shy flower for someone so famous, actually. And of course, there was our speaker on photography, Xander Angeles, who did the past three FHM calendars and is about to do the fourth one, plus loads of cover shoots. The photography contest we had after his al fresco lecture at Coffee Bean was really cool. The stuff they gave for prizes were sweet, though it could have been sweeter had I actually scored some.

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On the whole experience:

"I am not a very sociable person. That's why I didn't understand why, as we arrived, I started smiling at everybody. But I didn't talk. I was so confident during the three days. I talked to almost all of the participants, discuss anything under the sun, and we eventually ended up exchanging our e-mail and Friendster account details."

—Jaime A. Manalo IV,
associate editor, Los Baños Times

"I thought the delegates would just meet at Red Box and have the workshop somewhere else, in a more classroom-like venue. If I had hundreds of thumbs, I would really have given a hundred thumbs up to PDI for the venue alone. I have been to workshops and I can't compare this one to the others I have attended. Why? Because this is obviously incomparable."

—Mary Jef Omolon,
news editor, Weekly Sillimanian

On their favorite sessions:

"The last day: Xander rocked my world."

—Marie Krystle Perlada, senior editor
(photography), Malate Literary Folio

"Every minute of the workshop was great! But my favorite was when Mr. Conrado de Quiros spoke about writing and on being a writer. It was a dream come true for me: to finally meet the man whose style of writing inspired me to do better (as a writer). I was having goosebumps while listening to him. Indubitably, he is one of the greatest writers I have ever known."

—Thea Alberto,
associate editor, UPLB Perspective

"The welcome remarks of Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president/CEO of PDI, made me more inspired to do our part as student journalists in the development of this country.

"Being a writer is not that easy, but with sessions with PDI contributor Oliver Pulumbarit and Super!'s creative director Tim Yap, my creative ideas were unleashed. One of the personalities in media I'd been dreaming of meeting was my favorite columnist, Conrado de Quiros. I really couldn't believe I was asking him questions. He was amazing, especially when he discussed opinion writing and his life as a writer. I had the best time of my life during the workshop. It was an experience that I would definitely treasure."

—Mary Jef Omolon,
Weekly Sillimanian

"Two of my favorite speakers were Ms Chelo Banal-Formoso, because I love to write features and I think that she really gave me a lot of new ways to make interesting (articles), and Conrado de Quiros, for his unique writing
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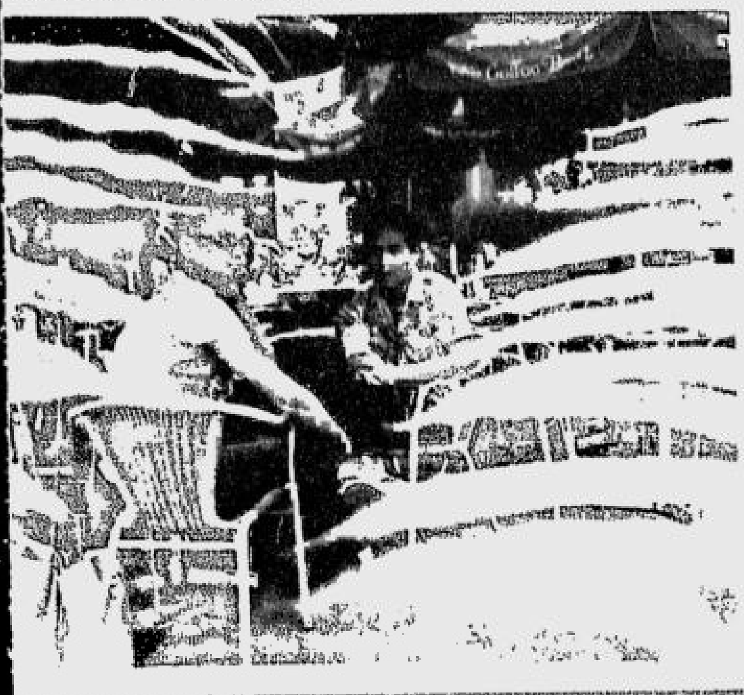

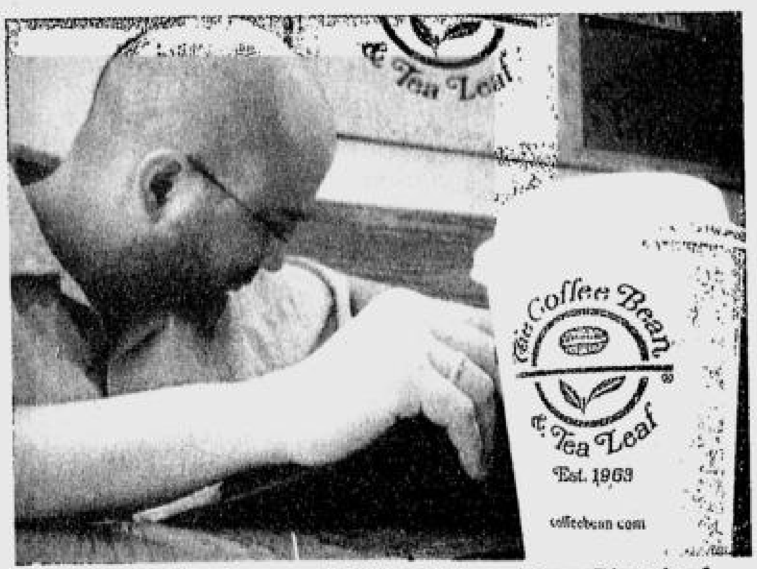

PHOTO by Melissa Bagasmad, Evita Guinto and Anna Dimerin of Ateneo de Manila University. Winner of Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Special Photo Prize

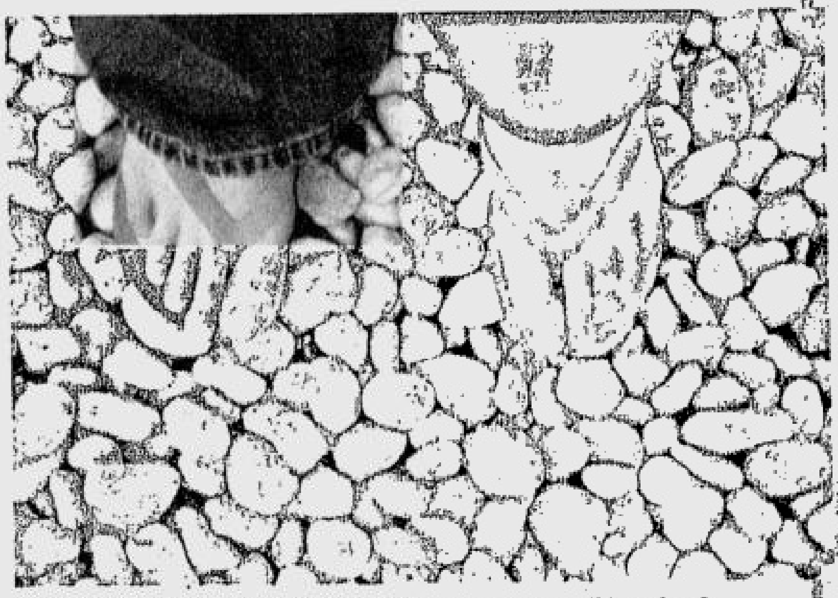

PHOTO by Melissa Bagasmad, Evita Guinto and Anna Dimerin of Ateneo de Manila University. Runner-up, Best Photo

bU!

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Red Box at Greenbelt 1, where we held most of our lectures, was also fab, though a videoke pub was hardly the venue I had expected for a writing workshop. It made for a really novel and memorable experience. Especially since we got to belt out our favorite songs 'til midnight on our last night.

The part where we had to come up with our own concepts for 2bU! should we be granted the opportunity to feature our schools was very challenging, but loads of fun, too. Everybody came up with loads of ideas—some brilliant, some crazy (a list—with pictures!—of your least favorite teachers, anyone?). But it was fun coming up with ideas, and listening to what the others had come up with.

But aside from the freebies, the fun activities, meeting my idols and bumping into celebrities at Greenbelt, what I am most proud of to bring home are the lessons I learned straight from the very people who hold the reins of today's top broadsheet.

So for now, I say adios Makati, *ciao* Greenbelt and *muchas gracias* 2bU! I shall return!

The author is the editor in chief of The Weekly Sillimanian.

pants of the 2bU! Workshop are their thoughts

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—Jaime A. Manalo IV,
Los Baños Times

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-Marie Krystle Perlada,
Malate Literary Folio

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—Thea Alberto,
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e have a great power in our hands as young journalists and that we should use it for the betterment of our country."

—Rudnie Manalo, associate editor,
L Magazine (De La Salle Lipa)

On their tips for the next batch of participants:

"I warn you. Do not expect this to be yet another boring workshop. It's worlds away from that. Instead, expect surprises, freebies, and a whole lot of pampering. Have fun. Lighten up. And at the end of it all, you'll realize how much you've learned."

—Anna Dimerin, Guidon

"Breathe. Take in what the people have to say. Interaction is the key."

—Marie Krystle Perlada,
Malate Literary Folio

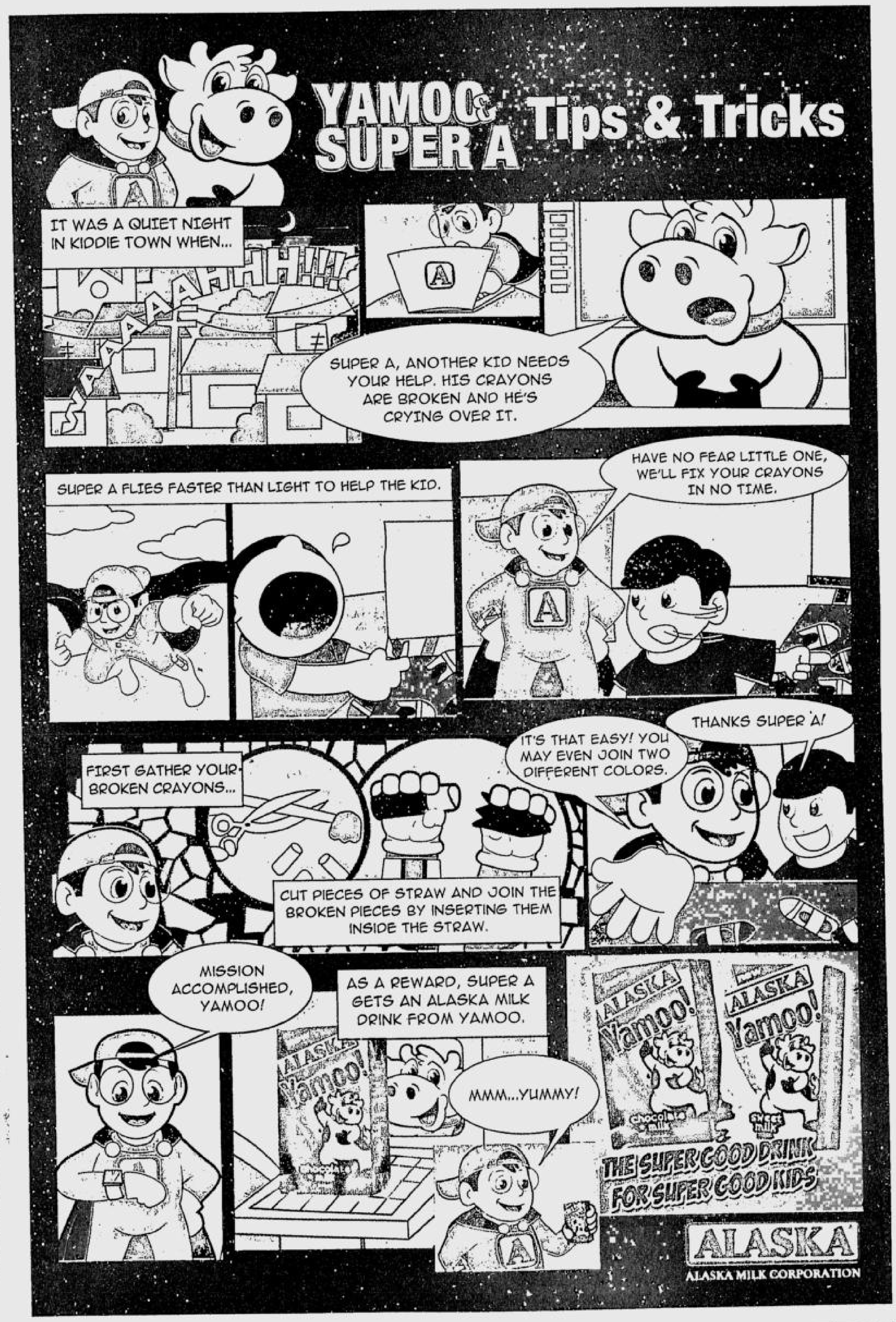
"Have fun! And ask as many questions as you can. Not everyone gets the chance to be in such a great opportunity."

—Thea Alberto, UPLB Perspective

"I hope I could still be part of the next workshop. To those who would be joining the next workshop, you should experience what I have experienced."

—Rudnie Manalo, L Magazine

Compiled by Rhiz Biñas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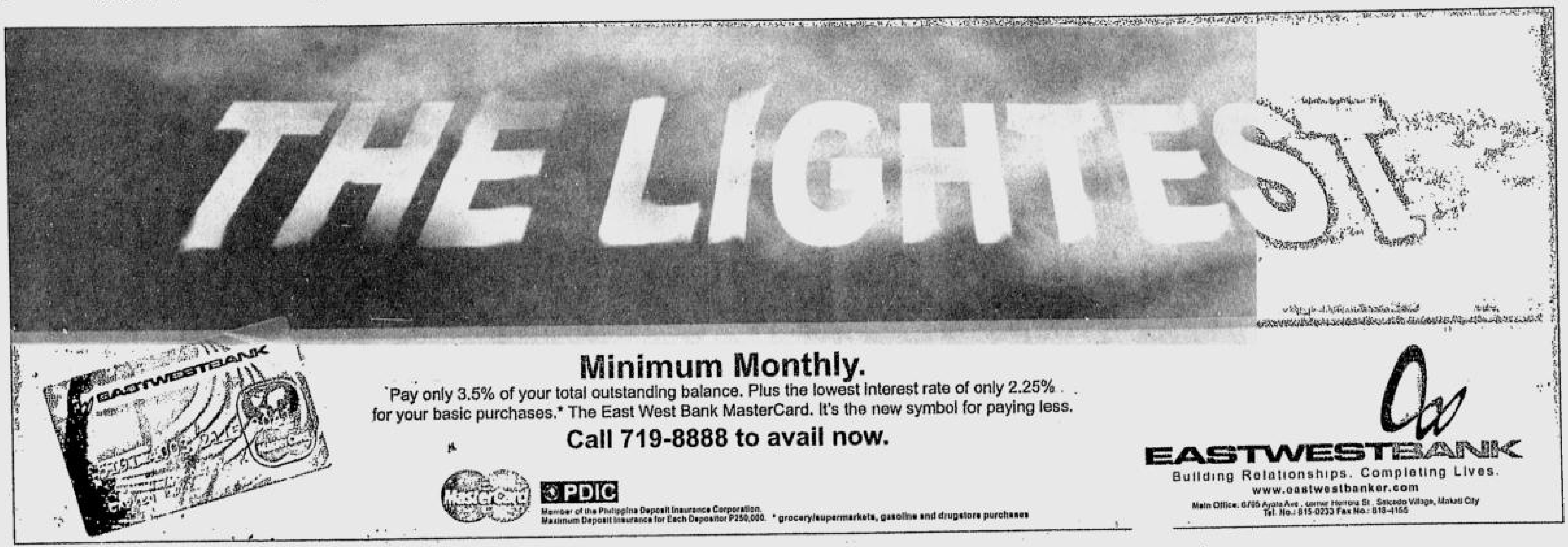
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Back to the heart of glamour

THE WEATHER has cooled, the tan has faded, the "Ber" months are but a few days away. Ah, yes. In other countries, autumn has arrived. In the world of makeup, however, it could only mean one thing: an abundance of elegance-evoking makeup looks on beauty counters in the next few months.

This season, The Body Shop goes back to the very heart of glamour: pure color illuminated by texture, the basics made magical with a veil of subtle glimmer. No gimmicks, nothing unwearable. This collection is for anyone who wishes to inject a dose of edge into their look without going overboard.

Because metallic inspiration has taken the fashion world by storm (you see it everywhere, from high-end boutiques to middle-class *tiangges*), The Body Shop follows suit with a collection boasting of metallic-finish products in its Autumn 2005 collection, Molten Metals.

Don't cluck that tongue just yet, though. There is nothing "hardware-ish" about the colors at all. The "coldness" of metal is balanced with sheer textures so that the effect is more ethereal "Lord of the Rings" than space-age "Star Trek."

Brilliance Powder

My first-ever "glam" makeup was a pot of bronzing powder from The Body Shop, which, inevitably, was the start of my love affair with shimmer powders and illuminating dust. The Body Shop, since then, has launched quite a number of these powders in many incarnations (all of which I was a fan of).

The birth of the portable pump-and-brush packaging is still, by far, the biggest thing to rejoice about, because I am a complete sucker for handy, tote-anywhere products.

This collection will launch the third shade in this powder range, a peach-pink three-dimensional powder that lends slight color and shimmer anywhere you choose to glow. And though it can be a lighter alternative to opaque blush, the brilliance powder has the barely-there sheen that goes well on the bridge of your nose, your décolletage, even your hair!

I'd use it to highlight my shoulders and my chest when wearing low-cut tops. It's sparkle that doesn't border on Solid Gold Dancer proportions no matter how much you brush on.

Metal Eyes

Moving on to my favorite among this set, I award snaps to these pots of nearly translucent cream-to-powder eye color for the way they brighten up my lids—and everyone else's. Metallics either disappear on very fair skin or look chalky or unnatural on dusky tones, but Metals Eyes lend their own special brand of magic that is unique to the skin tone of whoever uses them.

I tried Pink Chrome on my *morena* sister and it blended so easily with her color, resulting in a rosy, golden sheen that seemed to shift colors from different angles. Blue Platinum was the perfect pick for my pale complexion. I usually stick to greens as I feel they warm up my sometimes ashen tone, but this icy blue was surprisingly flattering, making me look wide-awake. This shade can also be used as a highlighter when applied with a very light touch.

Fawn Steel is the perfect base for smoky eyes. Using your finger to smudge a small amount on your lids, deepen the color a bit on your creases, apply eyeliner and two coats of mascara, and you're all set for a big night out!

Vanity Fair

Lora Gabol

Use these creams a little at a time, applying with your fingers, for easier control.

Glimmer Glosses

Finish off with plump-your-pout glosses in yummy pinks and plums to balance out the eyes. Again, I absolutely love the fact that I don't need a separate brush or get my fingers sticky when I apply this, because it comes in a nifty twist-and-swipe tube I get a kick out of using.

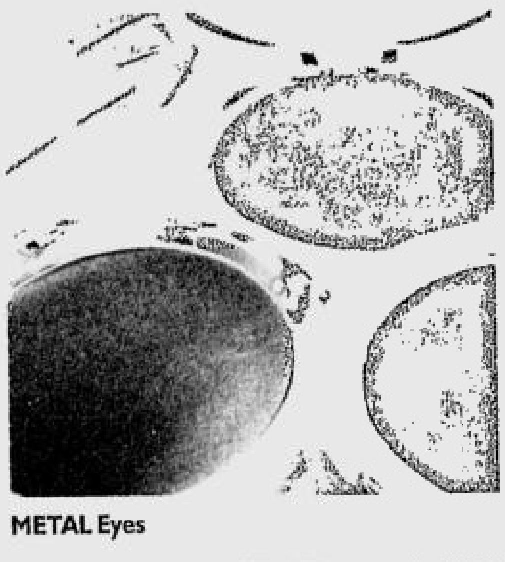
I've said so many times that I'd rather just wear balm on my lips because I hate the sticky feel of most lip products, but this was so light, I kept reapplying every so often! My kisser didn't chap from use (which is my usual reaction to lip gloss), and though you can see flecks of glitter, the texture didn't give it away.

I use Harmony Pink for a rosy effect during the day, Precious Pink with bare eyes and flushed cheeks at night and the nude-y Passionate Berry with intensified eyes for special evenings.

This collection comes with limited-edition stocks, so run to the nearest The Body Shop store and load up!

E-mail lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol @pldtvibe.net.

UNDERSTATED edge



METAL Eyes

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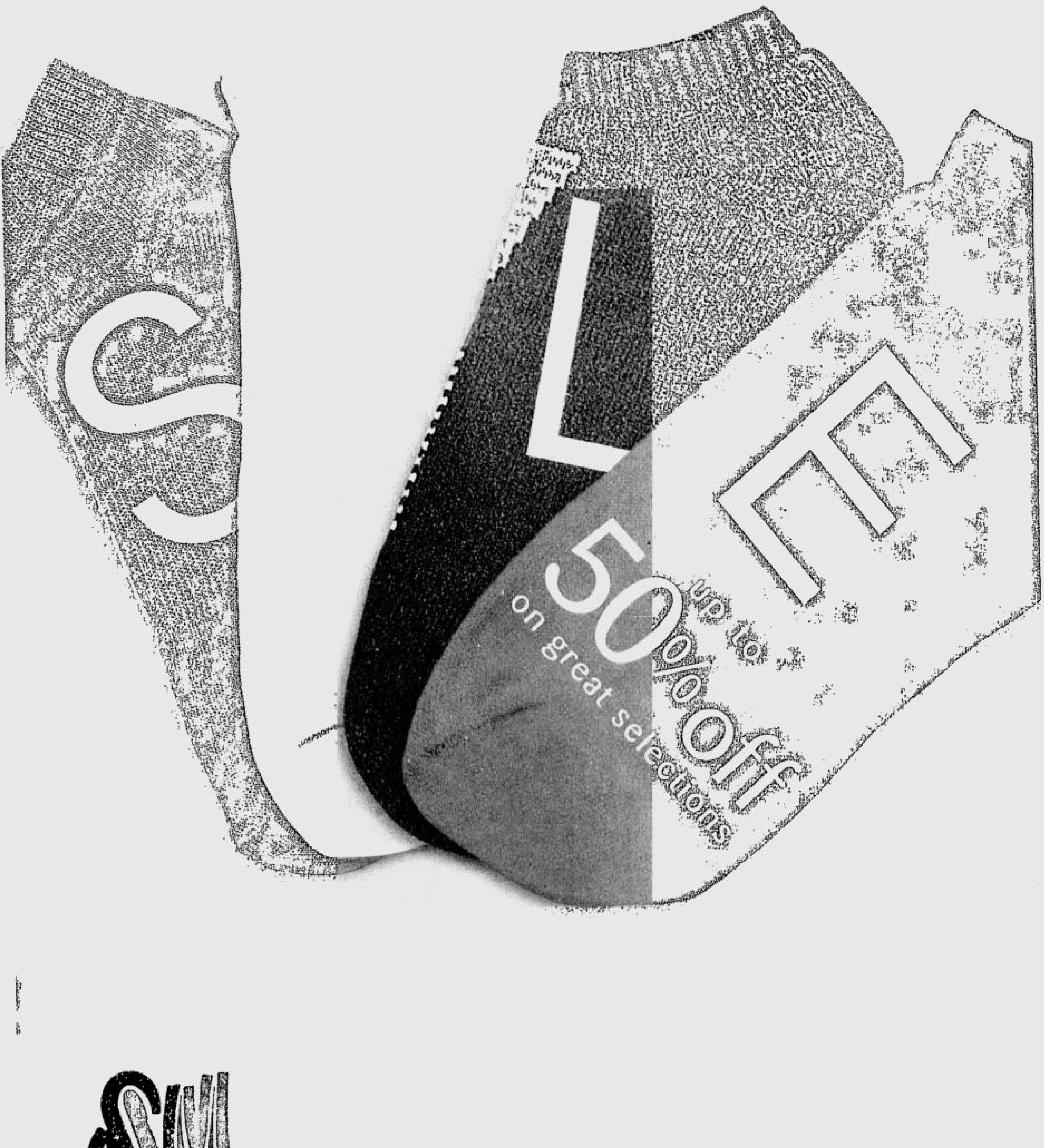

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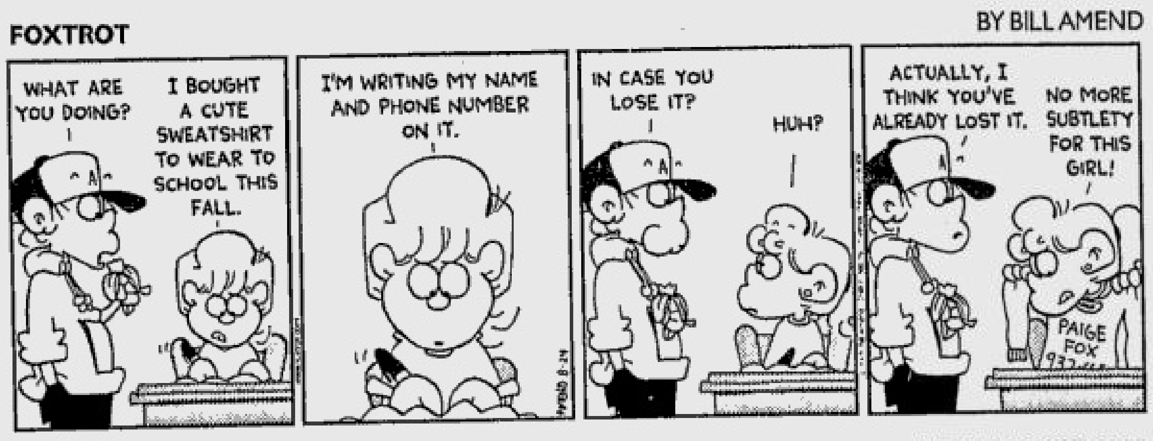
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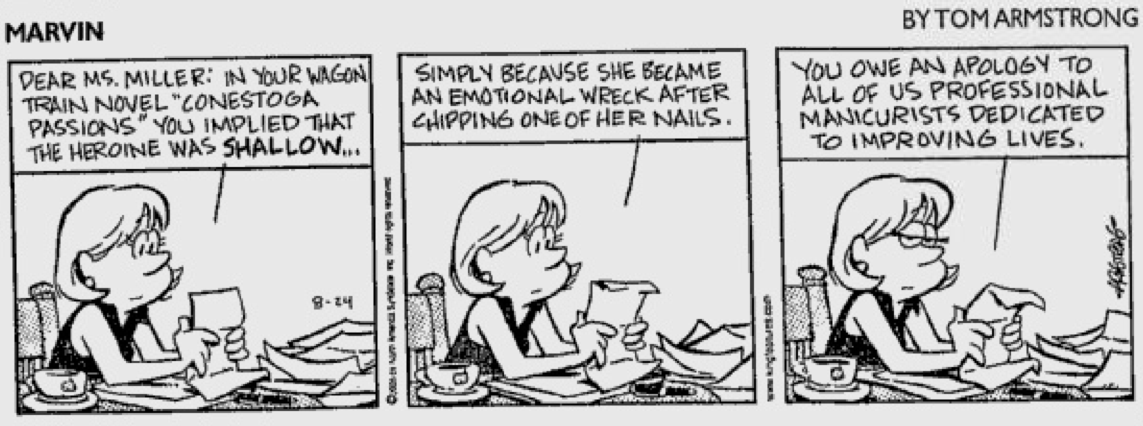
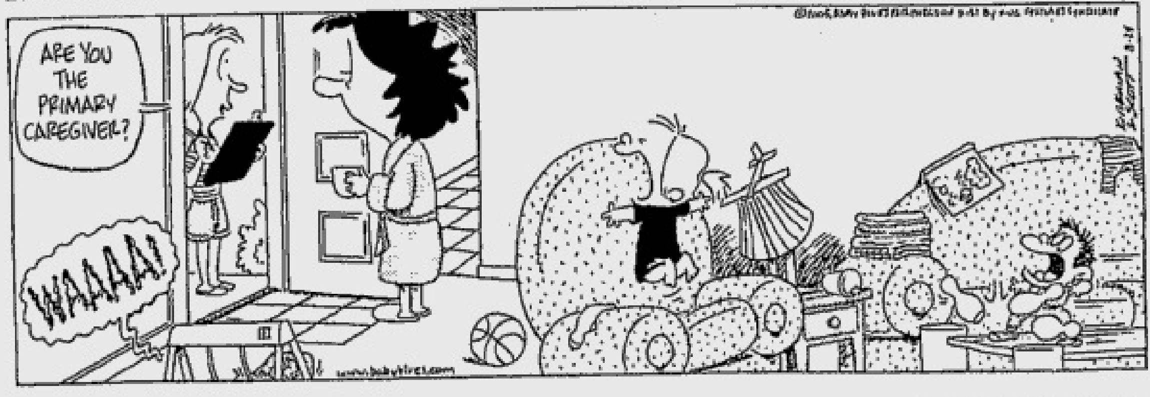
I BOUGHT A CUTE SWEATSHIRT TO WEAR TO SCHOOL THIS FALL.
I'M WRITING MY NAME AND PHONE NUMBER ON IT.
IN CASE YOU LOSE IT?
HUH?
ACTUALLY, I THINK YOU'VE ALREADY LOST IT.
NO MORE SUBTLETY FOR THIS GIRL!
PAIGE FOX

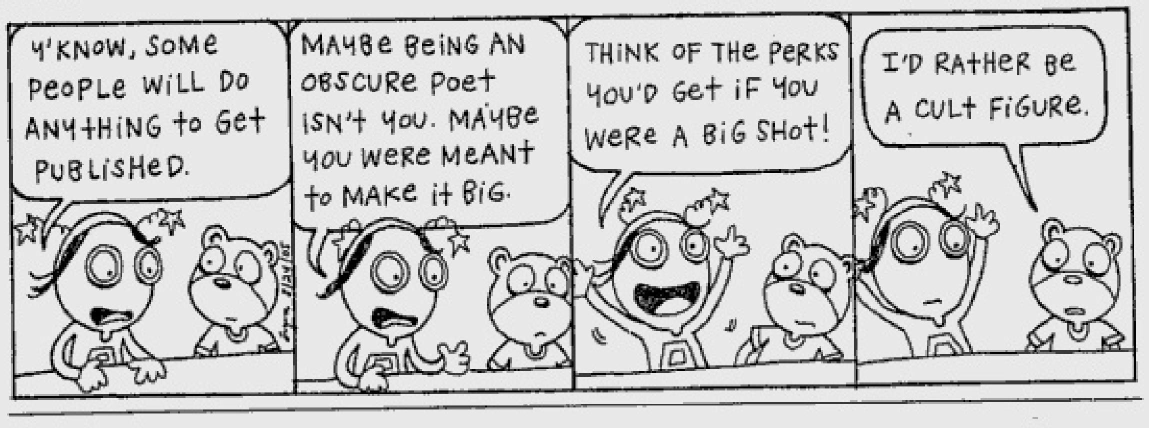
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DEAR MS. MILLER: IN YOUR WAGON TRAIN NOVEL "CONESTOGA PASSIONS" YOU IMPLIED THAT THE HEROINE WAS SHALLOW...
SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE BECAME AN EMOTIONAL WRECK AFTER CHIPPING ONE OF HER NAILS.
YOU OWE AN APOLOGY TO ALL OF US PROFESSIONAL MANICURISTS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING LIVES.
8-24

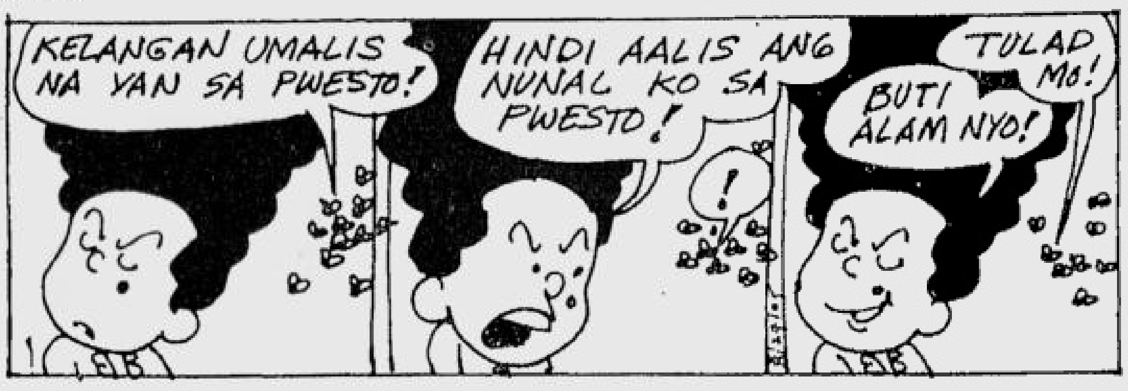
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE YOU THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER?
WAAAAA!

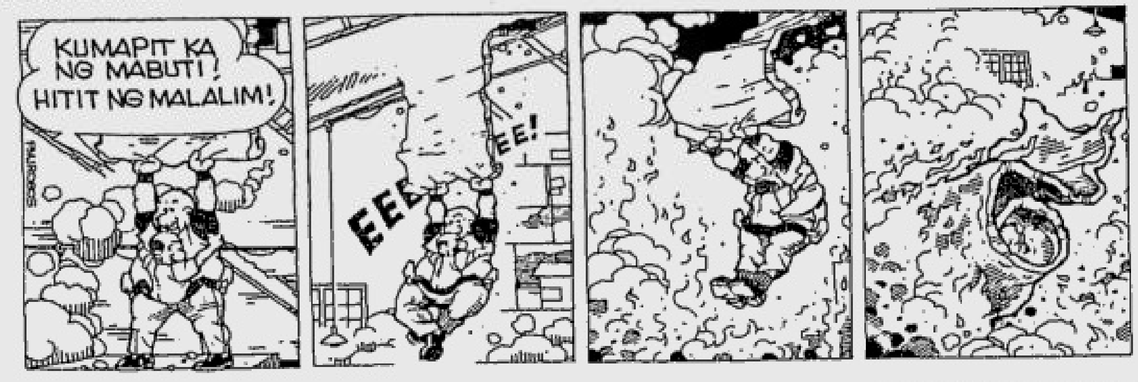
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Y'KNOW, SOME PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET PUBLISHED.
MAYBE BEING AN OBSCURE POET ISN'T YOU. MAYBE YOU WERE MEANT TO MAKE IT BIG.
THINK OF THE PERKS YOU'D GET IF YOU WERE A BIG SHOT!
I'D RATHER BE A CULT FIGURE.

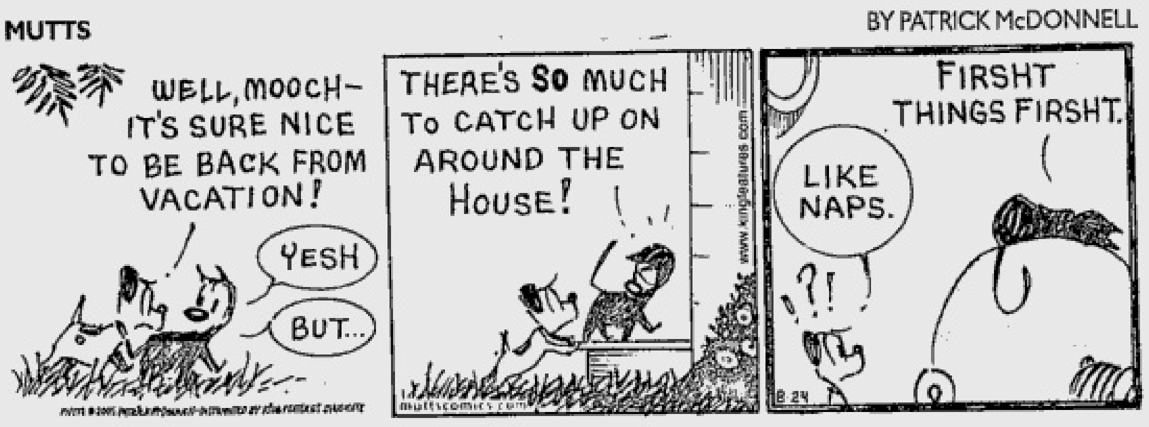
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN UMALIS NA YAN SA PWESTO!
HINDI AALIS ANG NUNAL KO SA PWESTO!
!
BUTI ALAM NYO!
TULAD MO!

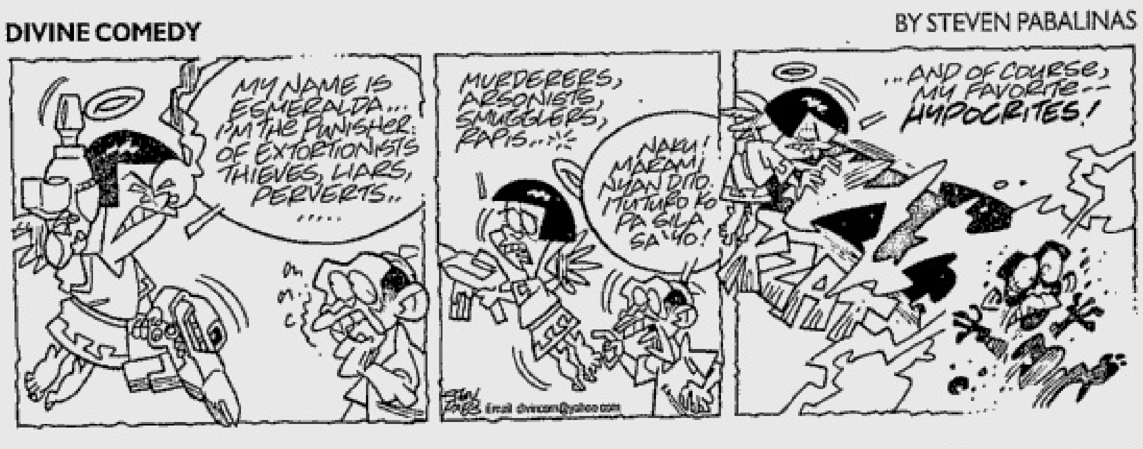
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUMAPIT KA NG MABUTI! HITIT NG MALALIM!
EEE
EE!

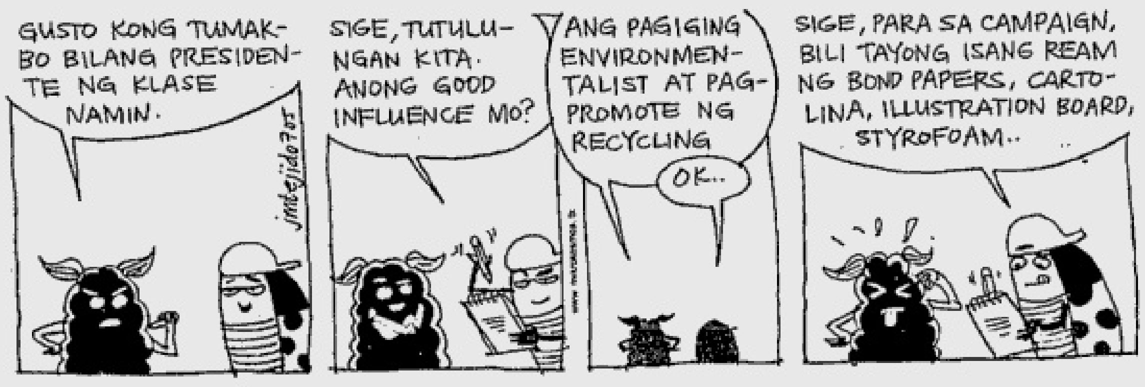
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL, MOOCH– IT'S SURE NICE TO BE BACK FROM VACATION!
YESH
BUT...
THERE'S SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON AROUND THE HOUSE!
FIRSHT THINGS FIRSHT.
LIKE NAPS.
!?!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
8-24

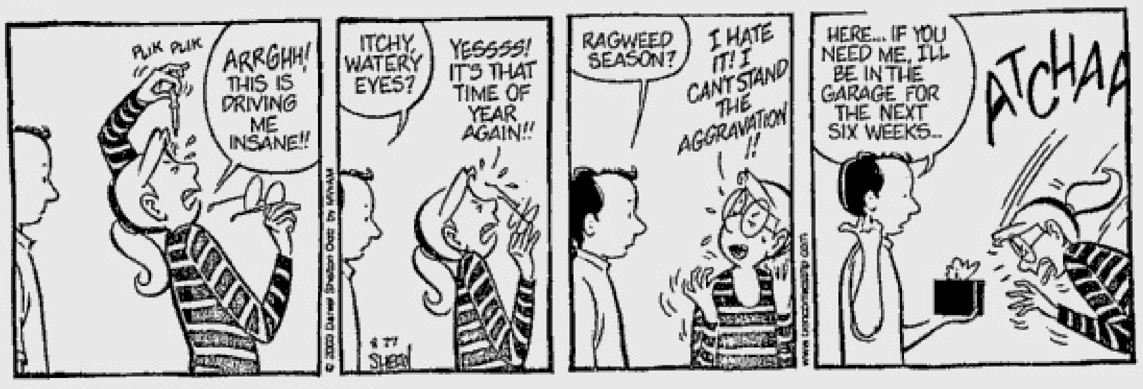
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MY NAME IS ESMERALDA... I'M THE PUNISHER OF EXTORTIONISTS THIEVES, LIARS, PERVERTS.. .....
MURDERERS, ARSONISTS, SMUGGLERS, RAPIS...
NAKU! MARAMI NIYAN DITO. ITUTURO KO PA SILA SA 'YO!
...AND OF COURSE, MY FAVORITE-- HYPOCRITES!
Email divincom@yahoo.com

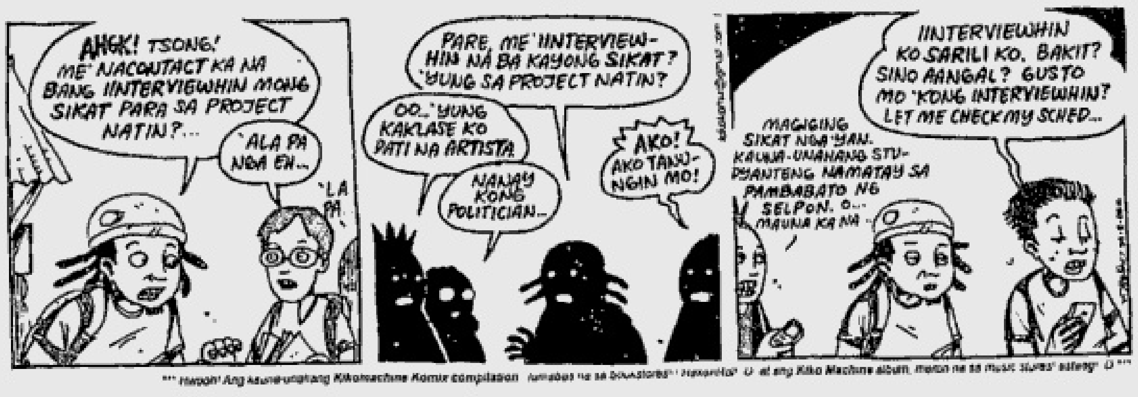
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GUSTO KONG TUMAKBO BILANG PRESIDENTE NG KLASE NAMIN.
SIGE, TUTULUNGAN KITA. ANONG GOOD INFLUENCE MO?
ANG PAGIGING ENVIRONMENTALIST AT PAG-PROMOTE NG RECYCLING
OK..
SIGE, PARA SA CAMPAIGN, BILI TAYONG ISANG REAM NG BOND PAPERS, CARTOLINA, ILLUSTRATION BOARD, STYROFOAM..
jmtejido'05

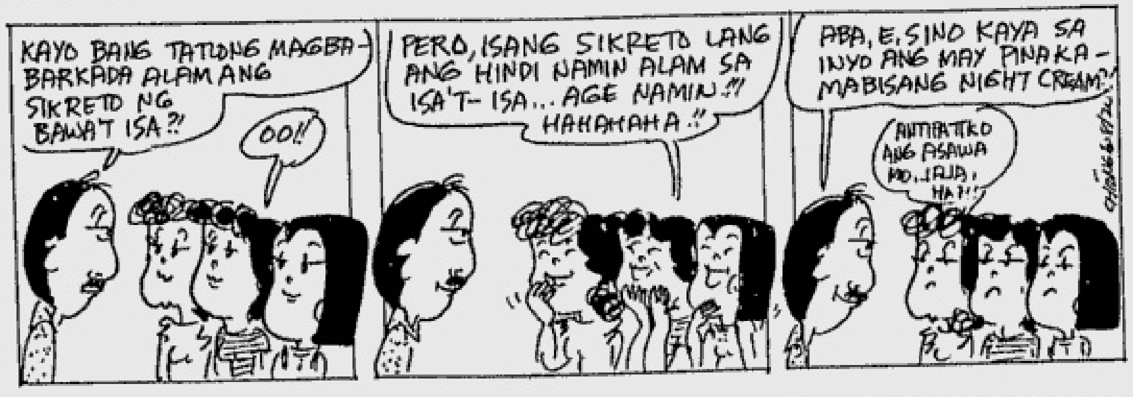
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLIK PLIK
ARRGHH! THIS IS DRIVING ME INSANE!!
ITCHY, WATERY EYES?
YESSSSS! IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!
RAGWEED SEASON?
I HATE IT! I CAN'T STAND THE AGGRAVATION!!
HERE... IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE IN THE GARAGE FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS...
ATCHAA

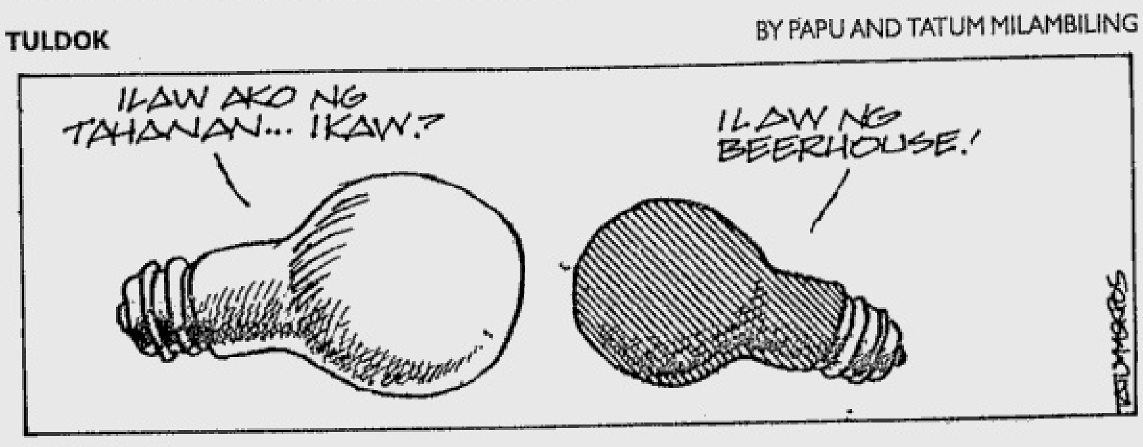
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


AHGK! TSONG! ME' NACONTACT KA NA BANG IINTERVIEWHIN MONG SIKAT PARA SA PROJECT NATIN?...
'ALA PA NGA EH...
'LA PA.
PARE, ME' IINTERVIEWHIN NA BA KAYONG SIKAT? 'YUNG SA PROJECT NATIN?
OO.. 'YUNG KAKLASE KO PATI NA ARTISTA.
NANAY KONG POLITICIAN..
AKO! AKO TANUNGIN MO!
MAGIGING SIKAT NGA 'YAN. KAUNA-UNAHANG STUDYANTENG NAMATAY SA PAMBABATO NG SELPON. O... MAUNA KA NA..
IINTERVIEWHIN KO SARILI KO. BAKIT? SINO AANGAL? GUSTO MO 'KONG INTERVIEWHIN? LET ME CHECK MY SCHED...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAYO BANG TATLONG MAGBABARKADA ALAM ANG SIKRETO NG BAWA'T ISA?!
OO!!
PERO, ISANG SIKRETO LANG ANG HINDI NAMIN ALAM SA ISA'T-ISA... AGE NAMIN!!!
HAHAHAHA!!
ABA, E, SINO KAYA SA INYO ANG MAY PINAKAMABISANG NIGHT CREAM?!
ANTIPATIKO ANG ASAWA MO, JAJA, HA?!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ILAW AKO NG TAHANAN... IKAW?
ILAW NG BEERHOUSE!

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an investigative mind; you like to get to the bottom of things. You're also very observant about the human condition. This gives you excellent people skills. Complicated details do not deter you; on the contrary, you adore them! An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Marlee Matlin, actress; Rupert Grint, actor; Craig Kilborn, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Impulse buying is likely today. You might get something quite unusual, technological or very modern. You might even donate to a charity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A friend could surprise you today by doing something unexpected or unusual. You might meet a rather bizarre or unusual person. Either way, it's not a boring day!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel a bit restless today. Read something that interests you or do something a bit different. You don't like to be bored. (Keep busy with interesting diversions.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A female friend will probably surprise you today. Something out of the ordinary will happen with a friend or a group you belong to. This is nothing big, just a curious phenomenon.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be patient with bosses and people in authority today. Don't push your luck. If you cooperate, they will too. If you don't cooperate, you might regret it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Moon in Taurus works well with your Virgo Sun. You feel bright, alive and energetic! Travel is particularly appealing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone might please you today by doing a little favor for you. Conversely, you might do a little favor for someone else. Either way, a mutual generosity is possible now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Partners and friends are a bit unpredictable today. First they say one thing, and then they say another! Be patient. People often change their minds. (No big deal.)

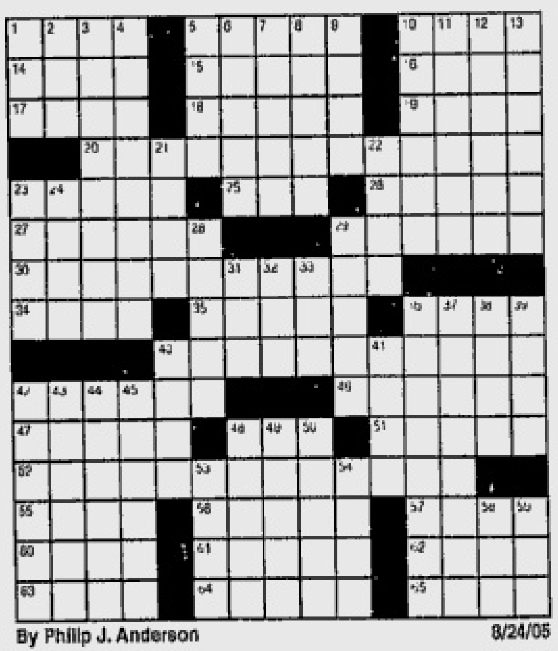
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Interruptions to your work schedules are likely. Systems might crash; power failures are possible. Quite likely, however, it will be minor. Just cope with a smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Unexpected flirtations could give this day a little pizzazz! Do anything that seems to be fun and pleasurable. It's a great day to enjoy a movie, the arts or professional sports.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone unexpected might visit you where you live today. Or something a bit unusual could take place at home or with a family member. Be patient and treat others as you would hope they would treat you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your mind is very bright and alert today. All kinds of ideas occur to you right now. A sibling or relative might surprise you in some way.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
8/24/05

ACROSS
1 Somewhat, in music
5 Purse attachment
10 Gets some sun
14 Agricultural yield
15 Emulate Cicero
16 Celebes ox
17 Subdue
18 Choir member
19 Cleveland team, to fans
20 Cheater's weapon
23 Greek epic
25 Wind dir.
26 "Home ___"
27 Tours neighbor
29 Greek ends
30 Gardners' advantage
34 Contributes
35 WWII reporter Pyle
36 Cheerio!
40 Anxiety giveaway
42 Chatters
46 Some paint brushes
47 Spooky
48 Invite
51 Dracula's title
52 Shoplifter's condition
55 Piece of work
56 Burt Lancaster movie, "___ Gantry"
57 Cork's country
60 Fencing tool
61 Indian drum
62 Track tipster
63 Musical notation
64 Florence's country
65 Macbeth's dagger

DOWN
1 Fraction of 100
2 ___ pro nobis
3 Put together
4 Performs surgery
5 Topers
6 Ringlet of hair
7 Puts in order
8 Seek redemption
9 Where llamas roam
10 Take on or take down
11 Comparable thing
12 Nine-days' devotion
13 Mouths off
21 Largest city in Yemen
22 Rotating parts
23 Swenson of "Benson"
24 Hog fat
28 Goulash and ragout
29 Complies
31 Otto I's realm
32 Actress Merkel
33 Cambridge sch.
36 Low stools
37 Indirect reference
38 Certain feds
39 Aide to an exec.
40 Go on a quest
41 Tempo
42 Nag
43 Seal for reshipping
44 Gets up
45 Party's list of nominees
48 G-sharp
49 "The Lion King" hero
50 Toll of the bell
53 Elusive Himalayan
54 Confederate color
58 Regret bitterly
59 French season

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	U	S	T	■	P	A	G	O	D	A	■	B	O	B
E	L	I	A	■	I	R	E	N	I	C	■	E	A	R
E	N	T	I	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	■	I	K	E
R	A	E	■	E	O	N	■	■	■	R	A	G	E	S
■	■	■	E	N	T	A	N	G	L	E	M	E	N	T
L	L	O	Y	D	S	■	A	R	O	S	E	■	■	■
E	A	V	E	S	■	■	T	I	P	S	T	E	R	S
A	R	A	B	■	M	E	A	N	S	■	H	A	U	L
P	A	L	A	T	I	A	L	■	■	C	Y	C	L	E
■	■	■	T	E	R	R	I	■	J	O	S	H	E	D
E	N	T	H	R	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	■	■	■
S	E	U	S	S	■	■	■	A	N	T	■	V	I	A
T	A	N	■	E	N	T	W	I	N	E	M	E	N	T
E	R	A	■	S	E	R	E	N	E	■	A	S	T	O
E	S	S	■	T	E	A	S	E	R	■	S	T	O	P

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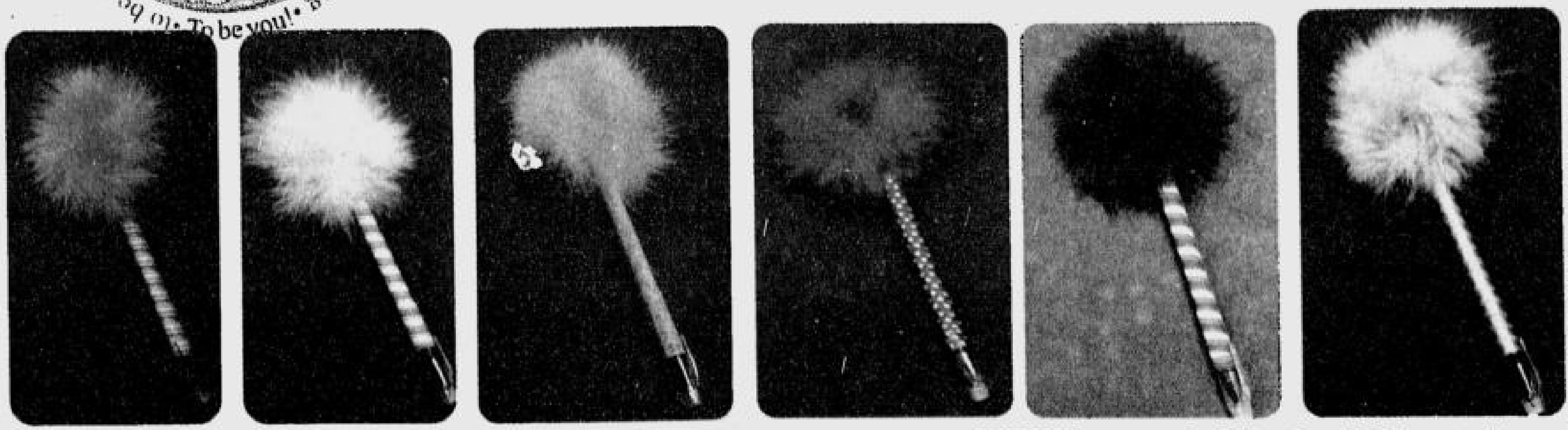
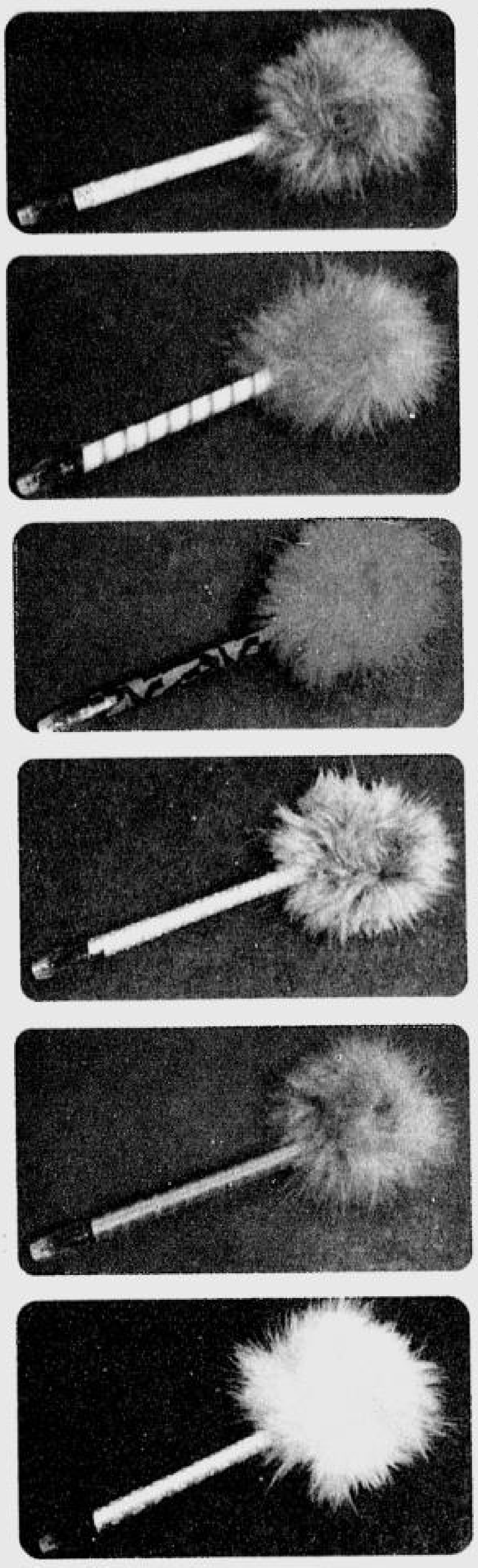
8/24/05



FURRY *kikay* pens go for P75 each or P180 for sets of three.



2BU! FASHION FREAKS

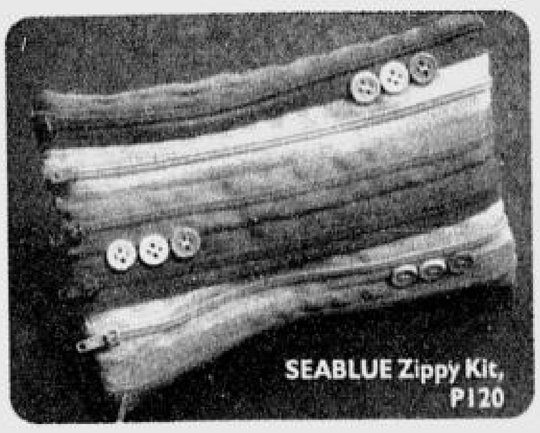
From A to Zip

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

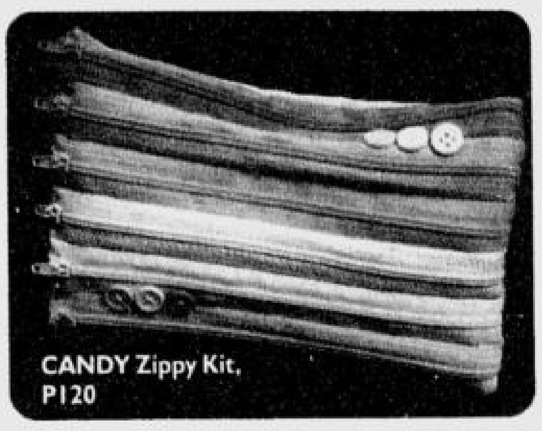
CHRISTINE Goze and Jolina Cesar-Goze have three things in common.

One, Tin's brother Michael (who is Joi's husband); two, their love for cute things; and, three, their growing business, Zeefur.

Since last year, Tin and Joi have been on a mission to spread cuteness in the world, by selling their Furry Kikay Pens and Zippy Kikay Kits.



SEABLUE Zippy Kit, P120



CANDY Zippy Kit, P120

These sisters-in-law are on a mission to spread cuteness in the world, one furry pen and kikay kit at a time

Furry pens

Tin, who is a business development officer by day, discovered her knack for making furry pens after a regular trip to the mall. "I was about to purchase a furry pen but saw that the pen didn't have a cap. So I spent the following days searching for the materials I would be using for my own furry pens—with caps, of course."

Soon, she was making her own pens. She loved her first batch of creations so much that she started selling them online.

Now, Zeefur's Furry Kikay Pens come in a wide variety of colors (all shades of the rainbow and then some), but her favorites are the white and the hot pink ones.

Kikay kits

Joi, who first received a zippered *kikay* kit as a gift, figured she could make another one for Tin. She thought it would be easy but she was wrong. "After her first kit, she texted me saying na *hindi pala madali gawin*, because it took her three hours just to make one," Tin says.

Still, Joi persisted. They named the kits she made Zippy Kikay Kits and started selling them, too. Now, with the help of her trusty sewing machine, Joi can finish kits in less than 30 minutes.

Zippy Kikay Kits are a must for *kikay* girls who like carrying a lot of their essentials with them. As Tin says, "I always end up dumping all the stuff from my old *kikay* kit just so I could find my Advil, eyedrops or whatever tiny thing I need at the moment. Who hasn't experienced the same thing? Because Zippy Kikay Kits are fully made of zippers, your stuff is constantly accessible from any part of the kit."

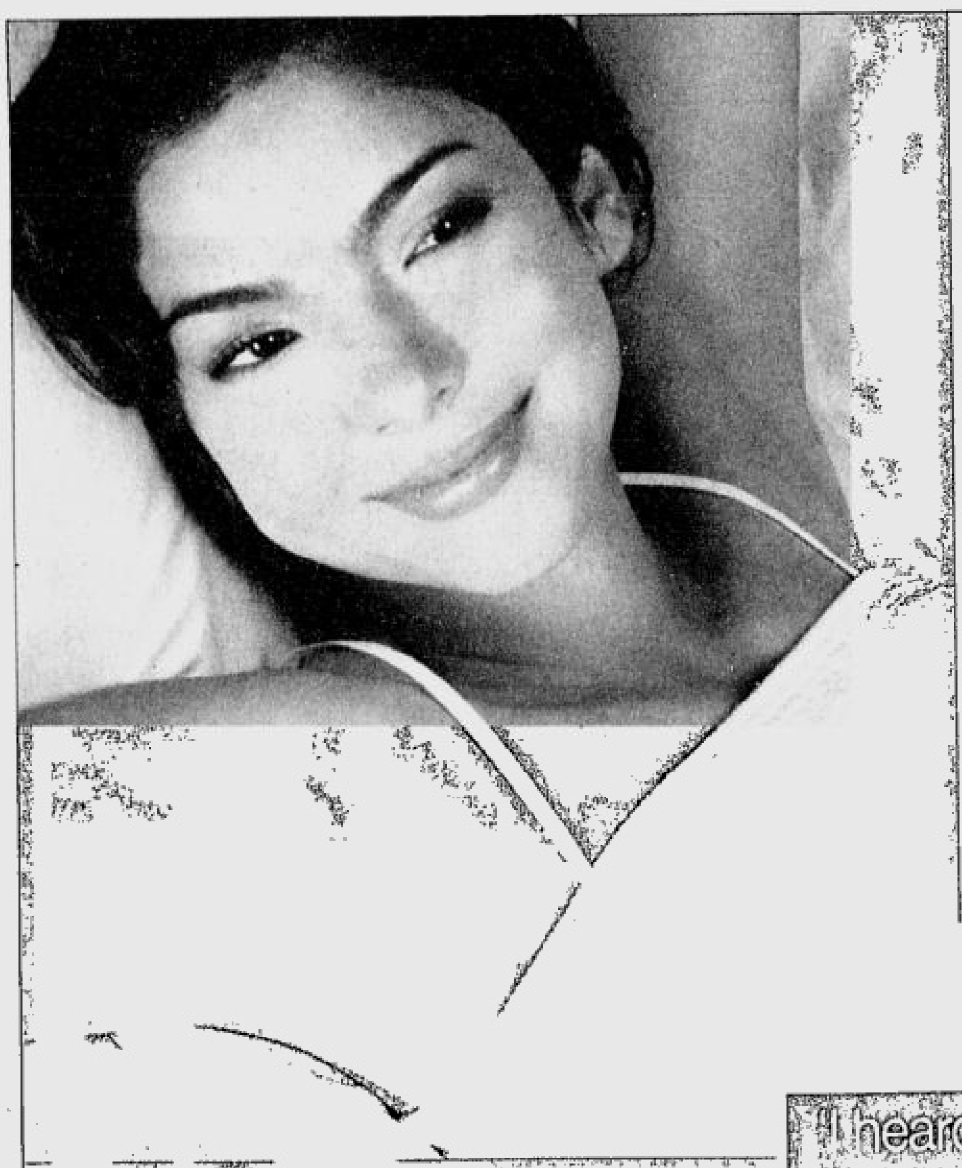
Zippy Kikay Kits, which come in different color combinations (Candy, Ocean Blue, Sea Green, Pastel Dream and Pinky Pop to name some), are sold for P120, while the furry pens go for P75 each or P180 for sets of three.

The girls supply novelty store EGG with their products, but they also sell a lot of their creations through the Internet in message boards populated by a lot of girls. "They just gush over them," says Tin.

Tin and Joi have now sold over 10,000 pens and around 5,000 kits. How much more cuteness can the world take?

Zeefur products are available at EGG (with outlets in most SM Malls). View Zeefur's online album at photos.yahoo.com/zeefurs or contact them through zeefur@gmail.com and mobile numbers 0917-3282126 (Tin) or 0922-5286801 (Joi).

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.



A COMET Breakthrough In Beauty

Being beautiful and attractive does not stop at having great skin in your face. You know you have to look just as flawless from the neck down. That includes being hair-free and having smooth skin in certain areas of the body that you flaunt. It's not surprising that women stop at nothing just to keep off those nasty body hairs, stubbles and chicken skin from coming back. After all, being completely hair-free and looking velvety smooth from head to toe scores compliments and turns heads.

From the same company which brought the Laser Hair Removal to Manila in December 1999, Facial Care Centre (FCC) now introduces another breakthrough in permanent hair removal, the **Comet Hair Removal**. It is the most effective machine for treating all colors of skin and hair. From blondes to dark-skinned, this method of hair removal absolutely works with least discomfort. FCC breaks new ground once again as it pioneers in the Philippines the internationally recognized and much talked about **ELOS technology** in hair removal.

The Comet system employs the powerful combination of electro-optical synergy (ELOS) and bi-polar radio frequency (RF). The energies coming from laser and radio frequency produce epidermal and dermal heat at accurate controlled depth. It can provide individual adjustment of radio frequency and laser energies to achieve maximum efficiency and safety for each patient.

Dr. Isabelita Joya, FCC in-house dermatologist states, "The technology of Comet Hair Removal yields fantastic results on very light blonde hair and dark skin types without having to increase the optical energy level. Since radio frequency does not hit melanin or the pigments in the skin that are responsible for our skin color, clients with any skin type – whether very fair or very dark – will find this treatment effective. Another important feature of this recently launched machine is that it has active dermal monitoring which stands for the capacity of the device to measure the amount of electrical power absorbed by the skin. This means that the device automatically measures and adjusts the amount of heat generated in the skin to effectively treat the areas with facial or body hair."

One of the many advantages of Comet is that there is no downtime. Dr. Joya further explains, "Except for minimal temporary redness in treated areas that disappears in minutes after a session, there is no side effect that will hinder you from immediately resuming your daily activities right after the treatment." As for the number of treatments required, this may depend on the area to be treated but generally speaking, you're on your way to being a hair-free and trouble-free beauty after six or more sessions.

"I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop it!"

Comet Hair Removal Treatment ▲

International VJ, TV show host and professional model Amanda Griffin enthuses about having discovered Comet. Fair and beautiful, Amanda does her best to look perfect on and off cam. Being hair-free and having smooth skin is essential for her because being a celebrity requires that she looks impeccable all the time. Amanda relates, "Beautiful skin is important for me because of my job. I try to take care of my skin as much as possible." Admittedly, she chose to go only to a professional skincare center that she could completely trust for her particular needs. Asked why she decided to go to Facial Care Centre, she says "I was tired of shaving. My armpits became irritated while waxing was painful. It left my armpits stubbly. So I wanted to get rid of the unsightly hair permanently." But looking at her now after having just a few sessions of Comet Hair Removal treatment, it's hard to imagine this fair, peaches-and-cream-skinned lady once had problems with unwanted body hair and irritated skin from the discomforts of shaving and waxing.

▲ Amanda Griffin poses with FCC's Dr. Joya to promote her new favorite Comet Hair Removal treatment.

For Amanda, it took only the first treatment to see a great outcome. "I saw results right after the first treatment. I practically don't have hair left." What's even better, she did not experience any adverse reaction at all which made her like the Comet Hair Removal treatments even more. Now finished with her third session, Amanda smiles with satisfaction when talking about the compliments she gets. "I heard this from a photographer during the shoot. He mentioned it. He said my armpits were nice. There's no need to PhotoShop it!" And the great difference after her Comet treatments, "My skin is soft in the armpits. After my third treatment, I only have one or two hairs that grow back but no stubble anymore. I also recommend it to everyone I know that they should definitely go and get it. It made such a difference for me, not having to shave ever!"

Comet is indeed a revolutionary breakthrough in beauty. Not only does it liberate you from unwanted hair, it also promises you a lifetime of fun and total confidence!

Call the Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN (7546) to inquire more about Comet Hair Removal.

September
value shopping

BIG DEALS in store for shoppers at 4 SM SUPERMALLS

Super hot buys, great savings, and a raffle event that offers 4 sets of exciting prizes await value shoppers at **4 SM Supermalls** during their simultaneous 3-day sale on **September 2, 3, 4.**

Participating in the 3-day weekend sale are **SM CITY STA.MESA, SM CITY BICUTAN, SM CITY BATANGAS** and **SM CITY CEBU.**

up to 50% off @

great selections mallwide

3 day sale

sept 2.3.4

mall hours: 10am - 10pm

get a chance to

WIN one of 5 JVC®

The Perfect Experience

color TVs 73.66cm (29")

with every P500 purchase at participating mall establishments

5 winners per mall

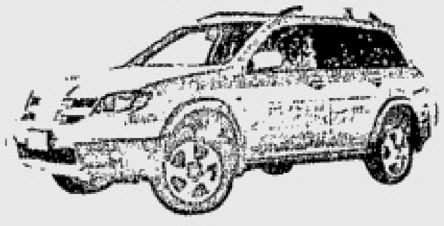
See mechanics posters for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4599, Series of 2005

20 more reasons to shop at SM

Shopping at any of the 20 SM Supermalls continue to be an exciting great-value experience.

Now thru November 15, every P500 purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket gives shoppers the chance to win one of **20 brand-new Mitsubishi Outlander!** Also at stake in the on-going raffle event are **20 JVC Color TVs** to be raffled off every week starting October 15!



get lucky and win!

Besides the great finds and greater savings, **SM Supermalls 3-day Sale** shoppers get a chance to join in the raffle event with every P500 purchase at any participating mall establishments.

raffle prizes galore!

Each participating mall is giving away **five (5) JVC Color TVs** as raffle prizes, one each for the 5 winners per mall.

It's great savings and a chance to win a **JVC color TV at SM City Sta Mesa,** a popular shopping and leisure destination of residents and students in the neighboring communities and schools.

SM STA. MESA

SM BICUTAN

In addition to the five (5) color TVs at stake in the raffle event, SM City Bicutan, the gateway to the CALABARZON region, invites southsiders to take advantage of its "Right here, Right now" 3-Day Sale hot buys.

luck spreads to the south

Considered the **ultimate family malling destination** in the province, SM City Batangas offers a delightful package of dining, shopping and recreation. Live performances of guest artists are also regularly scheduled.

SM BATANGAS

SM CEBU

Shoppers also get a chance to **win one of five JVC color TVs** during the 3-day sale raffle event in SM City Cebu. Attractions include:

- **Travellers Lounge** Out-of-town shoppers may avail of shower facilities, luggage counter and ticket arrangements.
- **Fiesta Strip** Early risers have a choice of breakfast fare starting at 7 am.
- **SM Storyland** Buy One Take One Ride-All-You-Can wrist tags.

there's more folks!

Stop for a bite at **SM Foodcourt** and get a chance to **win one of 4 Toyota Altis!** The promo is on-going until October 15.

Relax at **SM Cinema** and enjoy the **Movie Bundle** experience, consisting of regular popcorn, 12-oz. iced tea and a Gandour XL'Z chocolate pack together with the premier ticket of the movie you want.

SM FOODCOURT SM CINEMA

In sum, all these add up to a great weekend of great buys, super savings and for the lucky, a take-home raffle prize. Or prizes!